

IN 21 1912

A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

Vol. VI

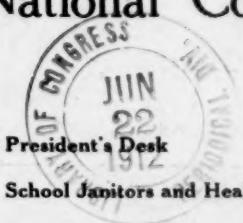
MAY, 1912

No. 9

# CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

ORGAN OF THE

## National Congress of Mothers



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State News

Child-Welfare in Other Lands

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# CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE

ORGAN OF THE  
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

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Vol. VI.

MAY, 1912

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## The President's Desk

THE current number of CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE contains reports of the state child-welfare work done by the Mothers' Congress and reported by the state presidents in many states. It is well to compare and consider the progress made. What is a fair average of growth and achievement?

Has all been done that could be done to enlist parents and teachers to become a part of the greatest of child-welfare organizations?

THE CHILD  
WELFARE WORK  
OF PARENTS AND  
TEACHERS IN  
MANY STATES

Child-welfare can only be secured as parents everywhere unite for child study.

Any state which does not double its membership in two years should ask the reason why. Surely every circle could see that at least one more was organized during the year. Surely every individual member could get one more. If it were realized that it means the saving of child life would not each member feel it a duty to do something to reach others?

The annual Child-Welfare Conference is a time for thought and earnest plans for growth and good work. The last one showed more systematic unified organization and ever increasing interest and enthusiasm.

THE CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE will publish each month a study outline of one of its loan papers for program use in Mothers' Circles and Par-

PROGRAMS  
AND  
STUDY OUTLINES

ent Teacher Associations. This month the paper selected is, "What a Father can Do for His Boy." The demands for programs are numerous, and the Congress meets them by its loan papers, and by Child Study and Child Hygiene articles in magazines published with special reference to their use, not only by mothers, but by circles and groups of parents. Mrs. Orville T. Bright, 6515 Harvard Avenue, Chicago, Vice-President of the National Congress of Mothers, will give special attention to the programs for parents' organizations.

Any group of mothers or any state or local branch can promote the educational work by sending papers or addresses of special interest and helpfulness to the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE.

SIGNAL HONOR TO  
MISS MARY E. LEDYARD,  
SUPERVISOR OF KINDER-  
GARTEN, LOS ANGELES,  
FIRST ORGANIZER OF  
NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
MOTHERS IN CALIFORNIA

China. Nothing that could be done would be more productive of a high class of citizenship than the establishment of a complete system of Kindergartens in China. Miss Ledyard has shown her ability as an organizer not only of Kindergartens, but of Mothers' Circles.

She has been Supervisor of Kindergartens in Los Angeles for fourteen years. She was appointed State Organizer for National Congress of Mothers in California in 1898 or 1899, and the foundations of the strong California branch of the Congress were laid by Miss Ledyard. She never took the presidency, but enlisted the interest of Mrs. W. W. Murphy, who for so many years ably led the California branch of the Congress. The warm interest of many members of the Mothers' Congress will follow Miss Ledyard into her new field, and the hope that she may be as successful in China as she has been in America. Miss Ledyard will study conditions in Japan before going to China, and will begin her work in Foo Chow about the middle of October.

The Sixteenth Child-Welfare Conference National Congress of Mothers held in St. Louis was one that marked definite progress. The Congress owes gratitude to the Conventions Bureau, who so cordially asked the Congress to meet in St. Louis, when Dallas was impractical, and who with but a month's notice made every arrangement for the smooth running of the conference. The welcome given by so many new members of the Congress was a pleasant surprise to many, who had only thought of St. Louis as a central convenient city in which to meet.

THE Republic of China has invited Miss Mary E. Ledyard to act as Organizer of Kindergartens throughout China, representing the new Government. Perhaps nothing indicates more clearly the far-seeing policy of the new administration than the fact that one of its first acts is to provide for the education of the babies of

but had not realized the strong local interest in St. Louis in the Congress and the Child-Welfare work.

The invitation of St. Louis business men that the National Congress of Mothers hold its 1913 Child-Welfare Conference in St. Louis was a marked token of the genuine appreciation of the aims and work of the Congress. The following testimonial well expresses the sentiment of St. Louis citizens:

To THE EDITOR OF *The Republic*:

It has been my good fortune and extreme pleasure to attend most of the sessions of the National Congress of Mothers in St. Louis. I wish to be one of many to publicly and appreciatively submit my sincere indorsement of their work.

While the scope of this work seems large, everything, seemingly, is done as a single unit. My impression of seeing these ladies at their work, was that of seeing a lot of God-loving people, rising far above the hum-drum of city and country life, shedding new rays of glad tidings, which have marked the dawn of a new day in child welfare life: the welfare of a nation.

To overcome all obstacles of progress is not an easy task; but to see these women working hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, and heart to heart, one ceases to wonder at the great good they are actually accomplishing. They certainly deserve great praise, great moral support and great financial support, for they rank high as the future character builders of our country.

The National Mothers' Congress is a big thing; it is a great thing. They are working in a field where all should work, and I feel that we will all labor in this direction as we realize what the Mothers' Congress is doing.

B. W. CLARK, M.D.

St. Louis, March 23.

## Missouri's Provision for Mothers

MOTHERS whose husbands are dead, or mothers with children under fourteen whose husbands are in prison may under the law of Missouri, adopted in 1910-1911, receive partial support from the State, provided they live in a county in which a juvenile court is held. Such counties may appropriate a sum not exceeding \$12,000 per year for this purpose.

The allowance to each of such mothers may not exceed ten dollars a month when she has but one child under the age of fourteen years, and if she has more five dollars a month for each child may be given.

This allowance is made by the

Juvenile Court only when mother and children live together, and only then provided that without such help the mother would be compelled to go out to work. The mother must stay with her children, and must be a proper person to bring them up.

The woman must have been a resident of the county for at least two years.

The facts concerning the applicant for such aid are secured by investigation of a probation officer. This law is considered to be one of the most novel steps in social legislation. The results so far more than repay those who have labored to make the law a success.

## Department of Child Hygiene

By HELEN C. PUTNAM, A.B., M.D.

### SCHOOL JANITORS AND HEALTH—V

"Every sanitary precaution necessary in private homes should be enforced many times more rigorously in schoolhouses."—"American Schoolhouses," Bulletin United States Bureau of Education.

THIS persistent and intelligent study by college women, and their frank admission that Boston's methods were especially poor as compared with the methods (officially reported) in several hundred schools in a score of large cities, stimulated similar studies within those ten years.

Notice that ("officially reported"). Reports on cleanliness and sanitation, like reports on morals and manners, unless details are standardized by accurate measurements and records, are of little value. I know a school building that is swept twice daily, but it is very much dirtier than another swept only on alternate days.

You remember also that the Boston study demonstrated that official rules were not lived up to (see our December chapter), a fact that official reports do not make known, except official reports of medical inspectors and nurses, of health officials and of our Bureau of the Census, all of which tell us humiliating facts of preventable ill health and death among school children. Regular observations, measurements and records are the only reliable basis for school sanitation, standardizing physical conditions as we are beginning to standardize mental conditions.

It is in this direction, measuring sanitary details by instruments of precision and keeping records, that we are now growing. Here is a story illustrating it of a recent study

of a large school in the neighborhood of a great university from which this kind of wisdom was at last beginning to overflow. One of the students in its college of education made the study. There are universities without enough such wisdom to overflow, if one may judge from the conditions of schoolhouses in their shadow. Mothers' clubs must ask them, and must keep on asking them until the results wanted are secured, for it does them good, as well as others, to come out of their round tables and laboratories and do real things, adapting scientific and theoretic studies to the needs of the community that sustains them.

This study began with grounds and buildings, and among other things found that trees shaded the windows cutting off necessary illumination, and that the school was directly in the path of the prevailing winds, bringing disagreeable odors from a gas plant. No shrewd citizen would build even a little \$10,000 home for himself and children in such a location, nor permit the erection of a gas plant to become a nuisance. But for many years those citizens had thought it good enough for the children and teachers—helpless to escape and disciplined for complaining.

Many details of heating and ventilating were bad. One discovery was literally amazing. There was found an unknown "aspirating chimney." Years before, in renew-

ing the heating apparatus, flues for the outlet of foul air had been opened from each room into a central chimney, and a small stove placed in the basement at the bottom of the chimney. The heat from the stove sweeping up through such a chimney to escape at the top sucks air from the rooms, carrying off some bad air, drawing heat into the rooms from registers, and creating air currents that make rooms much more comfortable. The principal and janitors, and the unsalaried school officials knew nothing of this good help to ventilation which taxpayers' money had provided, there had never been a fire in the stove, and what the teachers and children endured will be learned when the measurements are told.

There was absolutely no reasonable excuse for this neglect. It was biologically criminal; but civil laws do not make it so, as they do not make many other slow injuries of children with bad air. They are just beginning to take in hand the slow poisonings of workers from phosphorus and lead in manufactories. After a while the children's turn will come, not today's children in which some of us are personally interested; they will go the way of the others, taking chances with tuberculosis, anaemia and all the rest. The as yet unborn children that survive to school days will have good schoolhouse keeping, if mother's clubs say so, and stick to it.

A member of a mothers' club that is working on schoolhouse cleaning matters this winter tells me that they have found the same kind of unused ventilating chimney in one of their schools. We may justly blame prin-

cipals, janitors and other city officials; but in the end, however, it is the indifference and negligence of fathers and mothers, especially mothers, and most especially organized mothers in these two cities, for one is in the State of New York where women have tax-paying and school suffrage; while the other is in Massachusetts where women have school suffrage. That the New York condition was discovered and promptly remedied was due to a university man; the Massachusetts ventilating flue is waiting developments.

An anemometer is a little wheel so constructed as to whirl in currents of air. There is a scale to measure the rate of whirling, that is, the amount of the current of air. This student found that the anemometer did not turn in any of the foul air flues—there was no air going out. Any ventilating flue can be tested by an anemometer. It does not cost much, and any club can provide one for the study of its schools. School officials are quite apt to point out their flues for ventilation, and quite as apt not to know whether there are any air currents or sufficient air currents passing through them. The currents may be by accident inwards instead of outwards, as was sometimes the case in a certain very expensive "system of ventilation" that was installed in many buildings a few years ago. This system ventilated the water-closets and rooms through the same or connecting flues, and when things were not just right down below or up above, the current blew into the rooms instead of out!

That system is gone by now, and we are spending more hundreds of thousands on others that require win-

dows to be "hermetically sealed." But we are getting around that by all agreeing to open them at the same time every hour for five minutes, all flushing out together with the kind of air we were given to breathe all the time. That is a step in advance—that and open-air rooms. This "just as good" air reminds me of some of the patent medicines that people pay several times more for and that druggists claim are "just as good" as the real thing ordered by the doctor.

A very expensive instrument, requiring delicate handling, was used to measure the carbon dioxide in the air of these rooms, the Pettersson-Palmqvist apparatus. When school opened there was the proper amount of carbon dioxide in the air, 4 parts of the gas in 10,000 parts of air. Several measurements at different hours of the day showed that it increased very rapidly, in a few minutes being 10 parts instead of 4, and growing until it was 20 or 24 or even 29 parts. Different rooms measured differently. These high tests mean that the pupils breathed nearly all day what is called "very bad air." It is not the carbon dioxide that does the harm; but it is the conditions that so much carbon dioxide means.

One thing it shows is that there are no air currents blowing out stale air and blowing in fresh. All the air breathed lies stagnant to be breathed again. That accounts for the bad smells in all such rooms. We do not yet know all about the effects of this on children. Professor C. E. A. Winslow, in *Proceedings of the National Education Association*, 1911, which some of your teachers or libraries will certainly have, tells

of experiments proving the untruth of the idea that carbon dioxide is poisonous in our rooms; proving that it never can accumulate in an ordinary room in sufficient quantity to harm. Experiments were tried where the gas was sixty times more than in outdoor air, but so long as the chamber was cool there was no trouble and the people experimented on continued with their work in comfort. When the temperature got up in the seventies and eighties, as in our schools, then the discomfort was very great, being shown by flushed and perspiring faces and great restlessness. When the electric fan was started, cooling and fanning them, they were at once comfortable, although no other change in the air was made. These are some of the experiments that help us to see that the temperatures in our schools have much to do with producing illness.

A few days ago I was on the Twentieth Century Limited from Boston to Albany, the kind of train where one pays extra fare for elegance or comfort, I am not quite sure which. On this occasion the heat was stifling. I consulted the thermometer—as we usually do not find one, probably that is one of the reasons for extra fare—and found it 74 degrees. Summoning my courage and the fact, I protested to the Pullman porter. He started an electric fan in my direction, and I was comfortable, although the temperature of the car was no lower and the air no better. A quarter of an hour before reaching my destination the fan was stopped, and the distress seemed worse than before. Next month we shall learn how these things concern school children.

## The Second Form of Imitative Play

By ELIZABETH HARRISON

PARENTAL *environment* is a term coined by recent writers to define the subtle, unconscious influence in the home which arises from a parent's psychological view of a child's needs, and is not to be confused with his or her ideas of the material environment which all well-meaning parents ought to strive to provide for their children. In other words, it refers to the father's and mother's general attitude of love and solicitude for, or of indifference and neglect of, the needs of a child's inner-life. This kind of a psychological or spiritual environment can only be partially supplied by any other than the parent; especially while the young child is in the plastic, easily influenced stage of infancy and early childhood. All orphan asylums, no matter how well conducted, show the lack of this parental environment. It can not be given to children en masse.

Nowhere is this intangible but ever-present influence more to be reckoned with than in the mother's attitude towards her child's play. If she looks upon the child as a creature living solely in a world of sense-impressions she will inevitably lead him into the kind of play in which the body has preponderating exercise. If she regards him as an *Ego* or spirit, of which his body is the chief instrument, or tool, she will just as inevitably encourage him in the kind of play in which self-expression is emphasized. Even in the earliest nursery play this distinction begins. Contrast the kind

of play advocated by Froebel in his "Mother Play Songs" and his Nursery Games and the play which takes place with the average nursling.

It is true that through the senses the great outside world calls to the inner-self of the young child "Awake! Come forth and learn of me, that you may master me!" For it is an undeniable fact that our first knowledge of each new phase of nature must come to us through sense-perception. But the deeper knowledge of nature and her laws, by means of which mastery is obtained, comes through thought, and thought is an activity of the inner-self—not of the senses. The training of a young child in sense-impression (so exclusively advocated by some educators) is but a means to an end, never an end in itself, else the savage would be better educated than the savant.

It is well, in fact it is quite necessary for a child's right development, that he should have many and varied experiences in touching things, in hearing sounds, in seeing objects, and that the impressions made by thus exercising the senses should be repeated from time to time until they become clean-cut and definite, and are not "jumbled up" and confused by false explanations for the amusement of some adult.

The kindergartner so fully realizes the need of giving to a child strong, well-defined sense-impressions that she frequently, throughout the year, plays with her children what is known as "guessing-games," such,

for example, as the little game in which the child puts his hand behind him and some object is placed in it, and he tells by the sense of touch what the object is. This is soon followed by similar games in which two objects, such as two different length sticks, two different sized balls, etc., are given him to feel and he then not only tells the names of the objects but also tells the difference between them, which is the longer, the larger, the smoother, etc. Here already begins the inner contrasting of the sense-impressions made by the outside object. It may seem trifling to the unthinking observer, but it is the beginning of the training and development of *the self* that dwells within the body and which must contrast, compare, accept and reject the sense-impressions brought to it by the organs of taste, smell, touch, hearing, and sight if they are to be of any real service. Similar games are played by the hearing of sounds; then discerning the direction from which they came, contrasting one sound with another, often one voice with another. Even more and greater varieties of play are created by the child being allowed to see one or more objects for a moment and then describing the same. If such exercises are carried on in the true spirit of play they are good for the nursery as well as for the kindergarten, provided, of course, that they are simpler and with fewer variations. This is playing with the mental image of memory or former sense-impressions. Have you not met people with such acute powers of observation that they could take a street-car ride down a familiar street and on returning relate their

experiences and hold the most jaded attention? Why? They had perceived and contrasted things that you and I would have overlooked. Does not a part of the charm of travel consist in fresh sensations?

Again much of the difference between skilled and unskilled workmen in any line of work is largely due to the accuracy of the sense-perception on the part of the former and the haziness of the senses on the part of the latter. The slightest flaw is detected by the trained sense of touch of the sculptor. Rodin, the famous French artist, claims that his power to give the wonderful life-like effect to his marble came from his having discovered the almost imperceptible irregularities of surface which the Greeks gave to their statues of the gods. Michael Angelo alone has made use of the same discovery. The story is told of Theodore Thomas that in the middle of a rehearsal he rapped his orchestra into silence and then said in a tone of annoyance, "The third string on the seventeenth violin is out of tune." On examining his violin number seventeen found that the third string of his instrument was not in right condition. Similar stories are told of great painters and of famous scientists.

After this frank acknowledgment of the importance of training a child in sense-perception I hope I will not be misunderstood when I say that to restrict even a young child's play to mere exercise of the body and of the senses is to make him a sensualist, or a dull prosaic compiler of dull prosaic facts. Fortunately a child's inner-self usually insists on its right to be developed and bursts forth in some form of imagination. It is not

always realized by mature minds that the imagination rightly understood is simply the Ego or inner-self changing and transforming the images brought to it by the senses, so that these images can express the world of dreams and fancies which exist within the child and that out of the rightly developed imagination grow the men of creative vision who lead their generation into the great

"Yet-to-bes" that the prosaic mass of men do not believe possible because not yet proven by the senses. This is what play, dramatic play, means to a child. Froebel, the founder of the kindergarten, has truly said that play is the most spiritual activity of a child at this stage of his growth. It is his inner-self trying to take into itself the inner life of the world about it, and to utter or outer its own interpretations of the same.

This imitation of human life is known as the second form of imitative play, and is one of the most important means a mother can use with her child who is yet in the stage of early childhood, to train him into the right ideas of ethics, of social relationships, and a little later to bring him under the vitalizing influence of true hero-worship.\*

The right kind of imitative play leads a child to feel the beauty of noble conduct far more than does drilling him in the church catechism, or than preaching to him, and it is a hundredfold more effective than scolding him when you are vexed, for it is the means by which he

awakens ideals in himself. And this is the natural, normal way in which they should be awakened. They necessarily remain simple child-like ideals such as he can comprehend. In fact, he is trying to master his ideals of this or that line of conduct when he is playing that he is this or that person and is trying to put them forth in the only way that he as yet can express them.

A child of three or four or five years of age will just as readily imitate a drunken man whom he has seen staggering along the street as he will play that he is the carpenter who is building a house nearby, or the grocer-boy who is serving the community by delivering the family food at the back door. It is life, more life that his eager hungry inner-self wants just as his body craves more food and exercise.

Here is when *insight* is needed by the mother in order that by a word here or a suggestion there or now and then by entering into the little play as comrade or fellow-actor she may guide her child aright in his efforts to get hold of the spirit which animates the human world about him.

It is in this impressionable period that he is learning to observe and to imitate what is best and noblest in those about him or what is base and mean, and she can turn his attention and affection this way or that without in the least checking his self-expression—if only she understands!

\* See my "Study of Child Nature" or "Misunderstood Children" for detailed illustration, which space here forbids.

## “Who One Such Little Child Receiveth”

Beyond the hills the sun is sinking;  
Soft sigh the nightwinds from afar.  
And angel-hands the lamps are lighting,  
To see where little children are.

Some in the sweet and sunny meadows  
The day's bright hours have spent in play.  
Now, as they homeward fly—to mother,  
The stars go with them all the way.

And safe indoors, round mother gathered,  
Sweet tales are told, and prayers are said;  
Then little heads caress the pillows—  
And angels guard each little bed.

But there are many little children  
Whose only playground is the street;  
Who never hear a robin singing;  
Who never smell a blossom sweet.

They never see the stars a-sailing,  
So high, so golden, calm and fair;  
They do not know that angels guard them—  
But, are there *really* angels—there?

And many do not know the feeling—  
The heavenly sense of perfect rest,  
That comes to little heads when lying  
In mother's arms, on mother's breast.

Dear people, ye, whose homes are lonely;  
Whose hearts and lives are lonely too,  
Oh, do not think that no one wants you—  
Some little child has need of you!

Perchance, deep in your heart lies treasured  
A precious little vanished face,  
The sweetness of whose recollection  
The flight of years can ne'er efface.

Stretch out your arms, and clasp within them  
Some little one, and hold him dear.  
Perhaps *your* babe—his guardian-angel—  
Has led that little stranger here!

Long, long ago, the Master taught us,  
With little ones upon His knee:  
“Who one such little child receiveth  
Unto himself—receiveth Me!”

February 14, 1912.

JOHANNA DIECK.

## Sixteenth Child-Welfare Conference of National Congress of Mother and Parent Teacher Associations

THE Sixteenth Child-Welfare Conference of the Mothers' Congress opened with a very large and brilliant reception given by the national officers at the Planters' Hotel, St. Louis, from four to six o'clock, Wednesday, March 20.

Hundreds of people crowded the spacious room and the welcome given by the Missouri members was cordial in the extreme. Many mothers brought their children, and the happy renewal of old acquaintance and the beginning of new friendships made East, West, North, and South as one family.

For more than two hours the officers shook hands with an apparently endless line of mothers, fathers and lovers of children, and long before the afternoon was over they realized that the St. Louis convention was to be one of marked enthusiasm and progress. Mrs. James S. Nugent, of St. Louis, stood by the president introducing the guests and other prominent St. Louis women were in the receiving line.

The opening session was held at 8 p.m., March 20, in the large hall at Planters' Hotel, Mrs. Schoff presiding. Mr. Gundlach, President of Councils and acting Mayor, gave a cordial welcome on behalf of the city.

Mr. Thomas Cannon, Secretary Conventions Bureau, in greeting the Congress gave instances of women who had inspired great movements in the past and expressed the welcome of the business men of St. Louis.

Mr. Ben Blewitt, Superintendent of Schools, expressed the assurance

of his co-operation in the work of the Child-Welfare Conference. Mrs. T. L. Harkness, of the Tuesday Club, Mrs. Frank De Garmo, Chairman local Committee of Arrangements, Mrs. C. C. Jackson, President St. Louis Council of the National Congress of Mothers, all gave cordial welcome to the Child-Welfare Conference. The Carol Club, of the McKinley Manual High School, gave beautiful music. Mrs. Schoff responded and gave the reasons for the organization of the Congress, of its growth, responsibilities and achievements, outlining the relation of the mother and father to every condition of social life and showing the great possibilities of humanity as every need of the child is intelligently met.

Dr. M. V. O'Shea, School of Education, Wisconsin University, gave an eloquent address on "New Times Bring New Problems."

"When a nation is young," he said, "the people as a rule are vigorous physically, intellectually, and morally. Their pleasures are not excessive and their habits are calculated to conserve vitality. But as they grow older luxury increases and there is likely to be an increase in demand for sensuous stimulation.

"The people congregate in congested cities, primarily to receive intense stimulation. The rising generation is apt to adopt the habits of adults too early.

"The longer the period of simplicity, placidity, and docility in the young, the greater the chance of

complete development of individual stability and progress for the nation. Go on the streets of Naples and you will find boys and girls 12 and 13 years of age who have faces and habits like those of adults.

"Among Americans there are many influences at work tending to produce just such conditions as one finds in the older civilizations. Our cities are built for adults. City life is extremely stimulating. Consequently American children are tending to become mature early. This tends to develop criminal traits. When the young are suppressed they will try to take advantage of their oppressors. They will prey on organized society. This is what the 'gang' is for.

"The solution? We should have cities for the children instead of for adults. Consider their needs instead of commercial demands. But if this cannot be, set aside gymnasiums and other facilities for the young with which they can live apart from adults, except where they come in contact with their parents in the informal relations of the home."

The mothers themselves have obviously realized the situation, for in connection with this speech, the president of the national organization, Mrs. Frederic Schoff, of Philadelphia, told of a fund the National Congress is raising for the purpose "of building a parents' educational bureau in Washington, which will be the headquarters for the supply of educational material for parents, and will comprise a trained corps of travelling specialists in child nurture and bringing up, to visit and encourage and stimulate the better care of children—to meet their mental and

physical needs, instead of bringing them to accommodate themselves to the needs and provisions for adults."

Animated discussion followed Dr. O'Shea's interesting plea that childhood be prolonged, and that simplicity of life and amusement be encouraged.

A petition was presented containing many hundred signatures of Missouri women and men that the National Congress of Mothers organize a State branch in Missouri before leaving St. Louis.

Thursday morning, March 21st, the reports of national officers were given, and each one showed active work. Mrs. Schoff said in part:

Visits had been made to Chicago; Knoxville and Nashville, Tennessee; Richmond, Va.; New York, Albany; Wilmington, Del.; Washington, D. C.; Plainfield and Atlantic City, N. J.; Williamsport, Erie and Harrisburg, Pa.; Boston, Mass., in the interest of child welfare since last May.

The request of the Mayor of Philadelphia that Mrs. Schoff be chairman of Executive Committee and arrange plans of Municipal Child-Welfare Planning Conference in City Hall last November had been an important work causing wide interest in other cities.

Hon. P. P. Claxton, Commissioner of Education, sent the following letter to the Congress:

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
*Department of the Interior, Bureau of Education.*

"I am writing to extend to you the congratulations of myself and the Bureau of Education on this meeting of the Sixteenth Annual Child-Welfare Conference of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations. You are doing a great work, one in which I am interested, and to

which the Bureau of Education is dedicated. If this Bureau can assist in any way in your great work, please remember that it is at your service."

P. P. CLAXTON,  
*Commissioner.*

Mrs. David O. Mears gave an inspiring account of the American Child-Welfare Campaign conducted for the Congress under her leadership. She called on many leaders in different States to tell of the work done and planned. She recommended that the time for the campaign be extended to 1914, as the interest is steadily increasing and the work planned cannot be done in a shorter time. The recommendation was adopted.

The afternoon session was devoted to Child-Welfare legislation. Miss Mary S. Garrett, as National Chairman, made a concise comprehensive report full of suggestion. Copies may be secured if desired. Mrs. Mary E. McCulloch, Supervisor of Kindergartens, St. Louis, gave an inspiring address on the adoption of kindergartens as part of the educational system. Mrs. G. Harris Robertson, President Tennessee branch N. C. M., spoke eloquently of the need for pensions to enable poor or widowed mothers to keep their children together.

"From what vocation, do you think," she asked, "come our greatest number of women criminals? From workers in factories? In the shops? No, from the women in the home.

"Haven't you always been told woman should be kept in the home for protection? That girls were safe as long as they did not enter the terrible industrial world? Yet now we are told that woman in the home is in the greatest danger, and this in a national government report.

"There must be a reason. What is it? Poverty. Poverty in the home. Some cry out it is more education that is needed. But families need bread before books. Poverty creates filth, disease, discourag-

ment, desperation, and then lawlessness. Poverty makes more crime than ignorance, because it brings people to desperation sooner.

"We have no right to permit this, to allow children to come into the world hampered by inclinations that will follow them through life. It is the business of mothers to protect the home from abject poverty.

"Man is a social product. There are none of us who may be perfectly well until all have health; none of us that may be perfectly moral until all are moral; none of us that may be perfectly happy until all are happy."

Discussion brought out that in many parts of California the state Congress of Mothers pays the pension, amounting to the sum of what the child's earnings would be, and the child is kept in school two years beyond the age required by law. General interest was shown, and in many states almost simultaneously the effort to help mothers to bring up their own children is being made. Practical working of the law in Missouri was explained by Mrs. Weeks. Mrs. Walter Leroy Smith, of Massachusetts, told of the work done in Massachusetts to secure such a law, and Mrs. Owens spoke of what Illinois was doing under the recently enacted law for mothers' pensions. Miss Lucy Gaston, President of the Anti-Cigarette League, gave a short address in which she stated that the United States used more cigarettes than any country in the world. Eleven states have laws protecting minors, but the education of the people as to the injurious effects of cigarettes seems very necessary.

The evening session was one of great interest. Miss Netta Faris, of Cleveland, Ohio, spoke on "The Value of Kindergarten Training for Young Women, from the Standpoint of Motherhood and Social Work."

The central thought was that it was an education of both heart and head. Miss Faris represented the National Kindergarten Association, and as head of the Cleveland Training School is exerting a beautiful influence on her pupils.

Prof. E. Hershey Smith, of Yale University, spoke on an "Educational Scheme for the Home." He advocated many of the lines of work already inaugurated by the Congress and spoke of the importance of education for parenthood.

Mrs. Harriet A. McLellan, of Atlanta, Ga., mother of Mrs. Theo. W. Birney, gave greetings to the Congress.

Friday, March twenty-second, the sessions opened by report from Chairman of CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE, Mrs. Howard W. Lippincott. The report showed marked improvement in circulation and interest.

Mrs. Walter Leroy Smith, Chairman Parent Teacher Department, reported many hundreds of letters written in organizing associations throughout the country and many new associations formed.

Mrs. E. R. Weeks, as Chairman of Loan Papers, reported the work of revision and addition in this important educational bureau of the Congress.

Mrs. Frank De Garmo reported the growth of interest in Country Life Department.

Mrs. W. B. Ferguson gave her Treasurer's report and it was audited by Mrs. A. L. Hamilton, and accepted.

Dr. E. W. Saunders, of St. Louis, Mo., spoke on

#### THE PREVENTION OF INFANT MORTALITY.

He said: "In the fight to reduce the enormous infant mortality which disgraces Christendom the medical and nursing professions were the first to enlist, then philanthropists, and now the mothers, and in their advent upon the field of honor we see the assurance of victory. It remains to bring up one more division of this army and our ranks will be complete—the jurists. Under our system of jurisprudence the infant, in theory, is afforded the same protection as the adult, but alas! it is only in theory. In proof of this I defy anyone to produce a single instance of a judicial execution for infanticide in these blessed United States of ours. In our courts I would expect to meet with greater success in pleading the cause of a lame horse than that of a murdered infant. Some of us found ourselves impelled to open the Bethesda Foundlings' Asylum, without delay, because of the finding of the bodies of four murdered infants in this city in two days. In my younger days I expended much time and energy in the vain attempt to invoke the vengeance of the law upon those who sought the life of young children, but in vain.

"One woman stabbed her babe repeatedly with a pair of scissors, but her punishment was nothing. A father left his own child upon a door-step rather than take it a few blocks further to an asylum, where arrangements had been made to receive it. He was let off. A woman who had taken a child, adopted from our asylum, by the feet and dashed

its head against an ice-box, was reprimanded and sent home.

"The conclusion of the whole matter is that the heathen estimate of the rights of infancy dominates our Christian Civilization. The State recognizes specifically her obligations towards children of school age to a large and increasing degree, but is hitherto sadly lacking in her sense of responsibility for the life and welfare of her infants, who continue to show a heathen mortality.

"The universal conscience needs entire reconstruction as to the rights of infants, particularly of the unwelcome class. By many this class is considered to have no rights at all, being under the curse of the Law, forgetting that they are entitled to all the benefits of the Gospel. They are supposed to be physically and morally tainted.

"How thankful we ought to be that God is so much more merciful than the best of His people.

"The contention that kindness shown to an infant of the unwelcome class is an encouragement to vice, is such a hideous proposition that I am lost in amazement that any can be found to maintain it.

"In the older and wiser countries every facility is afforded for placing an undesired baby in a place of safety without betraying the mother's identity. This is in accordance with the dictates of simple humanity and of that statesmanship which recognizes the fact that its new-born citizens are one of the most precious possessions of the State.

"In some of our cities the savage policy prevails of refusing to receive

a homeless waif until the mother has been forced to commit the crime of abandonment, only too often under circumstances of exposure, which ensure the death of the child. For the unwelcome of the rural districts there is no open door anywhere to be found.

"Again, the majesty of the law should be asserted where it has hitherto notoriously failed in the conservation of the vital interests of children.

"Five families in this city mourn for their children, who are not, because this woman, who asked and obtained an apotheosis as 'Mother-God' as the reward of inducting her worshippers into a fool's paradise, where selfishness reigns supreme and unrebuked, hurled from her throne this defiance to the reason of mankind, 'there is no scarlet fever.'

"Whenever the State awakens to its responsibilities, every county will have its sanitary police. For the present, however, our question is how to bring most effectually to bear these agencies which are immediately available for the saving of infant life in the country.

"The first step to be taken in a given community is to interest the intelligent people and to get them organized into a local society. After the members have been sufficiently educated by reading—there is a large mass of sound, cheap, literature available now—they should begin a campaign of education and of personal visitation in the community. Whenever a baby is born under unfavorable circumstances, one of the committee should make a call with the view of

giving much-needed instruction, and affording a measure of material help, if that be needed.

"The danger from flies and from the lack of ice for keeping milk in hot weather is far greater than that incurred by the administration of most irrational food mixtures."

Dr. H. L. Wright, delegate from Oklahoma Department of Charities and Correction spoke on The Mother's Need of Knowledge of Food Values and Sanitation—and gave most interesting account of the health work in many States.

"Training the Ear in Music Before School Age" was the plea of Mrs. Frances E. Clark, of Camden, New Jersey. To accustom little children to good music instead of rag-time she asserted was important long before a child could take lessons in music.

The afternoon session was given to messages from Governors' delegates. Colorado, Pennsylvania, North and South Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Wyoming, Michigan, Montana, Wisconsin, New York, and Iowa, appointed delegates to attend the Child-Welfare Conference. Chicago University sent Miss Gertrude Van Hoesen, the head of the Household Art Department of the University, to discover, in behalf of educators, whether the Congress was a valuable ally of educators and ought to continue to have a representation from them. She will report to the university that she thinks it thoroughly worth while.

"I belonged to the first parents and teachers' organization," observed Miss Van Hoesen, "that was ever organized by

Francis W. Parker. He said that the real stimulus to the movement would come when the mothers and the fathers themselves organized voluntarily and not at the suggestion and under the supervision of the educators. The time has come; the movement is organized. It is the most important movement in education, I think, of years.

"The women represented are not like the women of the clubs and the suffragists. They are literally the women 'in the home.' Club women have gone to the clubs and have asked for admission, for recognition in some activity outside the home.

"A few people have gone into the home after these women and have organized them into the one activity they have ever undertaken outside their families. This is the first recognition on the part of the rank and file of motherhood that the good mother, the mother of the community and the state, is not the one who concentrates all her thought and care on her own children and her own dwelling place."

Mrs. Carrie Alexander Bahrenburg presented the greetings of National Council of Women.

State presidents entered into the afternoon's discussion of Child-Welfare telling of work in different departments.

Mr. William Hard gave an instructive address on the laws concerning guardianship of children. He pleaded for equal rights of father and mother and asked the co-operation of the Congress in bringing about more just conditions in this respect.

Mr. Roger N. Baldwin, Secretary of the Civic League, made an earnest plea for the Development and Extension of the Juvenile Court System of caring for wayward children.

Mr. Herman H. Birney spoke convincingly on "Systematic Child Study Needed for Child-Welfare."

The evening session opened with invitations for the next Child-Welfare Conference of the Mothers'

Congress to be held in San Francisco, Portland, Milwaukee, Chicago and Boston.

A lantern slide lecture on Country Child-Welfare and Good Roads was given by Mrs. Frank De Garmo, Chairman Country Life Department, followed by an address by Captain S. W. Ravenel, of Boonville, Mo., author of "Good Roads Primer." This book has been put into use in the schools of seven States, though only published a few months ago. It was prepared by the suggestion of Mrs. De Garmo and is practical and interesting.

Saturday morning, March 23, the report of chairman of Press and Publicity, Mrs. Edgar A. Hall, showed the valuable aid given in promoting a knowledge of the work by the generous press co-operation secured by the active press committee.

Mrs. Frederick Dick, of Denver, read the report of Playgrounds Department, prepared by Mrs. Warwick Downing, Chairman.

Mrs. Walter Leroy Smith, in her report as chairman National Parent-Teacher Department, gave definite instruction as to methods of organization and showed that by these methods it was rare to form an association that did not join and become a loyal active member of the Congress. She always begins by telling of the National Congress and its work, then of the State branches, then of the local circles and the close unity of purpose and work existing in this greatest of Child-Welfare organizations.

She makes the new members realize of what they are a part, and shows them the need of universal

united work of parents and teachers for child-welfare. Mrs. Smith probably enjoys the distinction of having organized and brought into membership more parent-teacher associations and mothers' circles than any other one woman.

Mrs. C. C. Noble of Los Angeles, National Chairman of Membership, made the following suggestions in her report:

#### TO CHAIRMEN ON MEMBERSHIP:

##### "TO HAVE A FRIEND BE A FRIEND."

*First think out a plan: then work to carry it out.*

*The following plans have been tried and have brought forth good results:*

First: Have a picture or pennant with name of school, to give to the room that has the most mothers out at the meeting. Put all teachers' names on the blackboard, with the grade they teach. Ask all mothers who have children in the eighth grade to stand and be counted; then seventh grade same, and so on, through kindergarten. The grade that has the most mothers at the meeting has the picture hung up in their room until the next meeting of the circle. The mother who has more than one child in a grade can stand up and vote for each child. The woman who has no child can stand up and vote for any child who invited her to come. It is a good-natured contest, and promotes membership, as the children urge the mothers to come to the meetings, and many times we find mothers who did not know the teacher's name, nor even the grade her child was in until she came to vote.

Second: Obtain names of parents having children in the school from the principal. Have a committee appointed in each grade, whose duty is to visit the mothers of the children in this grade who are not members of the circle, and try to get them interested in the work.

Third: Divide your school district into twelve sections; get a membership committee of twelve women; give each one a section to call upon mothers and invite them to become members.

Fourth: Divide the school district into streets and give each member one street, to call upon mothers on that street.

Fifth: Divide the active members of your circle into two sections, and create a friendly contest to see which section can obtain the most members during the year.

Let us all work for the upbuilding of the organization in which we are so much interested, and gather in more members for National and State Congress of Mothers.

Please give us your best efforts to bring home and school closer together and into a more intelligent co-operation, and thus work for the welfare of the children.

Yours in the work,

MRS. C. C. NOBLE,

*Chairman on Membership, National and State Congress of Mothers.*

514 Wright & Calendar Building,

Los Angeles, Cal.

Mrs. A. L. Hamilton asked that the National Congress of Mothers use all its power to influence the managers of the San Francisco Exposition of 1915 to eliminate all features which might in any way be

a detriment to the girls and boys of the State and country, and to give the world a clean exposition.

Mr. Thomas J. Cannon, manager of the St. Louis Conventions Bureau, came before the Congress stating that the business men of St. Louis had authorized him to invite the National Congress of Mothers to meet in St. Louis again in 1913. He stated that this was unprecedented, as out of thousands of conventions invited to meet in St. Louis, no other had ever been invited to return the second time.

He said that the National Government could well afford to pay a salary as large as the president's to carry forward the work being done by the National Congress of Mothers. He estimated the value to the nation of each infant life saved, and of each child prevented from entering criminal life, and showed the financial gain to the nation of Child-Welfare work as organized by the Mothers' Congress.

Mrs. Geo. Eggers, of Chicago, gave valuable ideas on Practical Methods of Parent-Teacher Work. Mrs. E. R. Weeks also spoke on this subject. Mrs. Orville T. Bright spoke briefly on The School's Responsibility to the Child. Her paper will be published. As chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, Mrs. Bright, presented the report of the Resolution Committee as follows:

#### RESOLUTIONS.

Be it *resolved* that we urge all members of the National Congress of Mothers to give their support to the child-welfare campaign, which

has been inaugurated for the purpose of arousing the whole country to a sense of its duty and responsibility to childhood, especially urging the establishment of a Department of Child Hygiene in every Board of Health with especial provision for the regulation of sale, refrigeration, and transportation of milk.

A Child-Welfare Planning Commission in every city Government.

A Department of Child-Welfare in every State and National Government.

WHEREAS, the departments of our government afford the most efficient means of conserving national resources, and whereas the children of the nation are its most valuable resource, therefore be it resolved that the National Congress of Mothers urgently recommends the establishment of a Federal children's bureau and that women be eligible to appointment as head.

WHEREAS, the National Congress of Mothers believes that monogamous marriage is the foundation of Christian civilization; therefore, be it resolved, that the National Government of the United States be requested to amend the constitution so as to make polygamy a Federal offense.

WHEREAS, it is for the best interest of children that the family should be kept together, and that children should not be deprived of a mother's love and care; therefore, be it resolved that we work toward the establishment of laws for the compensation of widowed and deserted mothers and of those who for other reasons are deprived of a husband's support.

*Resolved* that in addition to the foregoing The Mothers' Congress recommends the following legislation for child-welfare:

1. Laws in every State requiring the establishment of a Juvenile Court and Probation System with detention houses instead of prisons and with a law regulating the qualifications of probation officers and methods of appointment and supervision.

2. Laws giving the fathers and mothers equal guardianship of their children.

3. Child Labor laws which classify children according to their physical ability to work rather than by age alone and which prohibit all night work for minors.

4. Laws prohibiting the occupation of young children in street trades.

5. Laws providing medical inspection of schools and factories.

6. Laws requiring custodial care of the feeble-minded and separation of the sexes.

WHEREAS, the best of laws are useless unless enforced and whereas many of our States already have excellent anti-cigarette, child labor, compulsory education and other laws pertaining to child-welfare, therefore be it resolved that all State branches of the Mothers' Congress make special effort toward the enforcement of already existing laws.

*Resolved*, that the National Congress of Mothers deplores the nervous over-stimulation of children caused by attendance upon such entertainments as the night theatre and late parties and would substitute amusements which minister to

wholesome healthful development, making the life of childhood and youth more simple, normal and happy.

WHEREAS, the child needs for his best development the influence of both the father and the mother and

WHEREAS, the conditions of American life tend to turn the chief energies of the father toward the financial support of his family, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the National Congress of Mothers urges more simple living that the father may enjoy the full measure of his privilege and responsibility in regard to his children.

WHEREAS, great evils result from the lack of fitness of parents for their most important duties of life, therefore

*Be it resolved*, that we urge the better education of young men and women for the duties of parenthood, urging the judicious teaching of sex hygiene and especially emphasizing the value of kindergarten training for young women as a preparation for motherhood.

WHEREAS, great progress in child-welfare must result from a better knowledge of the physical care of children and a more intimate understanding of the great laws of their mental and spiritual unfolding, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that we urge upon Parent-Teacher Circles and upon individual fathers and mothers more systematic study of educational problems.

WHEREAS, the gang is a recognized element in the life of youth and we cannot too much separate the child from his group without

violating his social instincts, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that parents are urged to assume their full responsibility in regard to the community environment of their children.

WHEREAS, the kindergarten has proved of the greatest value in the training of young children and is recognized as necessary to a comprehensive educational system, be it resolved that the National Congress of Mothers recommends that the kindergarten be made a part of every public school system, especially in the rural communities.

WHEREAS, the object of education is the training of efficient citizens and

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the children of our nation leaves school at the end of the fifth grade, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the National Congress of Mothers advocate vocational training and use its influence to have such training introduced into our Public School System.

WHEREAS, there is a necessity for the establishment of community centres for recreation and education, therefore

*Be it resolved*, that we recommend the opening of schools, churches, and other available buildings for this purpose.

WHEREAS, "the rural school presents one of the difficult and unsolved problems of education," and whereas, the American highways are largely unimproved, therefore, be it resolved that the National Congress of Mothers heartily urges the improvement of highways for the benefit of the children of the nation.

*Be it resolved*, that we, the members of the National Mothers' Congress, assembled in St. Louis, tender our sincere appreciation for the many courtesies extended to us by The Conventions Bureau of St. Louis, the Jefferson and Planters' Hotels, the public schools for the beautiful music furnished by the children, the Mayor of the city, the local committee whose faithful efforts have contributed much to the success of the convention, the Press for services rendered, the friends who have shown by their presence at our meetings their friendly co-operation with our aims and purposes.

Respectfully submitted,  
CORA C. BRIGHT,  
Chairman.

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The Grand Leader Department Store invited the officers and managers to a substantial luncheon in their dining-room.

Saturday at seven o'clock the large dining-room of the Planters' Hotel presented a festive scene and the large drawing rooms were crowded with guests come to attend the Child-Welfare Planning Banquet which brought to a close the Sixteenth Child-Welfare Conference of the National Congress of Mothers.

Mrs. Frank De Garmo was presiding officer and had made all the arrangements for the banquet. Over a score of speakers responded to toasts, but so successful were they in keeping within the five minutes' time limit that by midnight all the words of inspiration, affection, and wisdom had been spoken and with appreciation of the beautiful recep-

tion accorded them, the delegates from every section of the land parted, taking with them new ideas and fresh inspiration for the coming years' work on behalf of the children.

The Missouri women and men interested in the formation of the Missouri branch, National Congress of Mothers, met at Planter's Hotel, Monday, March 25, at 2 P.M.

Mrs. De Garmo called the meeting to order as one of the Organizers of Missouri. Mrs. Schoff was nominated as presiding officer. It was voted that all Missourians attending the meeting should vote.

The National constitution was read. It was voted to organize a State branch.

Mrs. De Garmo was asked by the meeting to appoint a nominating committee. She appointed nine presidents of circles in St. Louis. The method of voting was decided by the audience.

The election resulted as follows: President, Mrs. James C. Nugent, St. Louis; vice-presidents, Mrs. C. C. Jackson, St. Louis, Mrs. Horace Windsor, Boonville, Mrs. F. S. Barnes, Kansas City, Mrs. N. A. Mozeley, Bloomfield, Mrs. E. B. Sykes, Milan; treasurer, Mrs. Robert E. Moore, Vinita Park; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Henry W. Koch, St. Louis; recording secretary, Mrs. Eugene Ogden, Maryville; historian, Mrs. Jennie Hildenbrandt, St. Louis; auditor, Mrs. J. B. Rice, Irondale.

Over a thousand members of the Congress are enrolled in St. Louis alone, and there are hundreds more in the different towns of Missouri.

## Program for Parents' Associations

### LOAN PAPER 115

#### WHAT A FATHER CAN DO FOR HIS SON

By HARRY THURSTON PECK

LOAN Paper No. 115 is a short, crisp, well-written and most convincing presentation of the ideal relation of fathers and sons, beginning with the babyhood of the latter and extending through all the years.

In these days when fathers are becoming constantly more and more occupied with their duties as providers for the household, and when gradually the training and discipline, the study and intimate knowledge of the children are left more and more to the mothers, this is a timely subject for the consideration of our clubs and circles; for there is no more important child-welfare work before the mothers of to-day than to bring back the father to his rightful place in the family circle.

Undoubtedly in the equal partnership of marriage it is the man's part to provide as it is the woman's to administer, but in adequately providing the father is no more released from his further duties (privileges would be the better word) toward the family than is the mother in adequately administering. With these duties of partnership fully performed *both* still stand *equally* responsible for the remaining and infinitely more important care of the children along those lines which shall lead finally to fine, strong, splendid character.

Our American men are to be

looked upon with respect, with admiration and with gratitude. The men of no other nation accord to women such honor, freedom and independence; our very leisure (which some of us spend in earnest endeavor to be useful and some alas! in arduous endeavor to be useless) is for the most part provided by the work of husband or father or brother. It is for us mothers to show that we value for the children the companionship, the influence, the guiding hand of the fathers more than anything their hard-earned dollars can buy.

Using the loan paper as the main program it will be well to stimulate thought and discussion by giving out to selected members some days preceding the meeting at which the paper is to be read, some topics to prepare. The following are suggested:

1. Suggest ways in which fathers may become identified with the outdoor recreations of their children, such as walks, flower-gathering expeditions, bird-hunting with a camera, planting and gardening, tent and cave making, etc.

2. How may a father take part in the in-door pleasures of his children, such as dominoes, checkers, guessing-games, word games, charades, etc.

3. Discuss the tie-strengthening

value of reading aloud in the family circle and name some books which will interest boys and girls, young and old alike. Kipling's Jungle Book, for example, stories by Thompson-Seton, the Uncle Remus stories, etc.

4. Suggest opportunities for moral education which will offer in connection with these recreations, as, the teaching of honesty in the games, love of Nature and humanness in the expeditions, etc.

5. Is there any influence so powerful in helping the boy to develop a clean, wholesome manhood as the fact that he may safely take his father as his ideal? Could any-

thing do more to hold that father to high purpose and irreproachable life than the thought, always with him from the child's birth, on through the years, that his boy would turn to him as his model and example?

6. Is not the father prevented from real acquaintance with his children by the efforts of the mother to conceal unpleasant episodes in the daily life? However kindly intended is such procedure not in reality depriving the father of a right?

7. What can we do to make the fathers equal factors with the mothers in the growth and development of the children?

PASADENA, CALIFORNIA,  
March 14, 1912.

TO THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF  
MOTHERS AND PARENT-TEACHER  
ASSOCIATIONS,

*Greeting:*

As President of the California Congress of Mothers, and in its behalf, I extend to the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations an earnest and cordial invitation to hold its convention in California in 1915.

1915 will be especially favorable for coming to the coast. The great San Francisco and San Diego fairs, celebrating the opening of the

Panama Canal, will be held that year. Special railroad rates to the coast no doubt will be made, thus guaranteeing a large attendance. California will at that time be especially well prepared to entertain.

We believe that the Mothers' Congress of California, in membership and work accomplished, is worthy of this recognition.

San Francisco stands ready to open its doors to you and we would urge it as the most logical place for the meeting.

MRS. A. L. HAMILTON,  
State President, California Congress  
of Mothers.

# Aims and Purposes of National Congress of Mothers

To raise the standards of home life. To develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.

To give young people, ignorant of the proper care and training of children, opportunities to learn this, that they may better perform the duties of parenthood.

To bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parent and teacher may coöperate intelligently in the education of the child.

To surround the childhood of the whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of lawbreakers and criminals.

To use systematic, earnest effort to this end, through the formation of Mothers' Clubs in every Public School and elsewhere; the establishment of Kindergartens, and laws which will adequately care for neglected and dependent children, in the firm belief that united, concerted work for little children will pay better than any other philanthropic work that can be done.

To carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in Home, School, Church, State or Legislation.

To interest men and women to coöperate in the work for purer, truer homes, in the belief that to accomplish the best results, men and women must work together.

To secure such legislation as will ensure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts and special officers, whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue, instead of confirm, the child in evil ways.

To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than institutions.

To rouse the whole community to a sense of its duty and responsibility to the blameless, dependent and neglected children, because there is no philanthropy which will so speedily reduce our taxes, reduce our prison expenses, reduce the expense of institutions for correction and reform.

The work of the Congress is civic work in its broadest and highest sense, and every man or woman who is interested in the aims of the Congress is cordially invited to become a member and aid in the organized effort for a higher, nobler national life, which can only be attained through the individual homes.

## State News

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

News items from the States must be in the hands of the editorial board by the fifteenth of the previous month to ensure their appearance in the next magazine. The editorial board earnestly asks the attention of every press chairman to the necessity of complying with this rule.

California, Pomona, May—

Connecticut, Middletown, April 25, 26.

Illinois, Chicago, May 8, 9, 10.

Mississippi, Jackson, June 3.

Oregon, Eugene, July 2, 3.

Vermont, Montpelier, May 24.

Washington, Tacoma, May 3, 4, First

Baptist Church, Ninth and D Streets.

### REPORTS OF STATE PRESIDENTS AND ORGANIZERS FOR 1911-12 STATE CONVENTIONS

#### ARIZONA

Arizona has six associations in membership. Three were organized during 1911. We have just appointed a state organizer who is planning definite work. We find our superintendents and principals glad to co-operate. We have five department chairmen. The magazine has helped us, and we have made some use of the educational material furnished by National Congress. We have a Juvenile Court chairman who co-operates with probation

officers. We hope to gain many new members in 1912.

MRS. J. C. NORTON,  
*President.*

#### CALIFORNIA

*Report of Congress of Mothers*  
*To the National Congress of Mothers and*  
*Parent-Teacher Association.*

#### GREETINGS:

The past year has seen much progress made in our work. Enquiry with refer-

ence to it has come from all parts of the state. The officers and chairmen of departments have been kept busy answering these.

There are fifty-eight counties in this state, divided into eight districts under the supervision, this year, of the eight vice-presidents. Our constitution provides that the qualified directors of each district shall, as soon as practicable, following the annual election of officers, request the president to call a meeting and to set the date for formation of districts and for the election of president for same. Fourteen counties have organized associations. In these there are fourteen Federations, namely: Los Angeles, one hundred and twenty-four associations; Pasadena, sixteen; Pomona, eight; Long Beach, eleven; Redondo, four; Monrovia, four; Berkeley, six; San Francisco, four; San Joaquin, seven; San Jose, thirteen; Glendale, six; Santa Monica, four; South Pasadena, three, and the Bay Federation, making a total of two hundred and eleven schools in Federations.

There are thirty-nine associations, not federated, making a total of two hundred and fifty associations in the Congress.

All of these organizations are connected with the schools. Under the ruling that all organizations belonging to the Congress shall pay dues directly to the State Treasurer, cuts out all but individual circles as members. We consider all of our associations child-welfare organizations. Since last national meeting, we have organized fifteen new associations and received into membership sixteen clubs. We have not adopted any systematic method for increasing our membership, except to keep ever before the public the good that can be accomplished through organized efforts in this work, with this motto ever before us: "By our works ye shall know us."

Up to date we have eight thousand six hundred and sixty-five members, with thirty-five associations to hear from.

We never attempt to organize an association in a school, unless we have the full co-operation of the superintendent and principals. Our State Chairmen have been requested to correspond with National Departments. How many have done so I do not know.

As to how many have made use of the National Educational material, I am not prepared to say. Wherever I have spoken this year, I have informed the organizations of the method of obtaining these helps. We have a list of speakers which are passed upon by the Executive Board. This list has been printed for distribution. We have endeavored to secure speakers from all parts of the state on a great variety of subjects, who will be able to go to the associations when wanted.

We have a CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE Chairman, and she has sent out many requests for subscriptions. I feel sure that it has been a help to those receiving it.

The following comes as answer to the question, "What would help most in our state in promoting the work for child-welfare in the home, in the school and in the state?"

"In the home": Reading and study groups of young mothers to consider child welfare from the physical, mental, moral and spiritual standpoint. This would include every possible question or measure.

"In the school": Moral instruction, medical inspection and physical training, and continuation schools for manual work.

"In the state": Compulsory kindergarten law, kindergarten training for advanced students in Normal Schools, supervised playgrounds for all schools, instruction in agriculture, and more attention to industrial and vocational training, and all these with an aim to the development of character.

We have, also, our Chairman on Legislation, who has been instrumental in getting the state to compile and print the laws relating to women and children, including those that were passed at our last Legislature. These we expect to receive soon.

The question in regard to infant mortality has not received as much attention the past year as a state work as we hope to do in the future, but has been taken care of by individual associations and federations by the establishment of school nurseries and school clinics.

The Congress has chairmen of committees having in charge the matter of wayward, erring children, Juvenile Courts and probations, playgrounds, domestic science and home making; also the promotion of kindergartens, etc. These chairmen and committees are expending such effort as their time and opportunity will permit.

We are working in every way we can for the improvement of the schools.

I should be glad to enlarge upon the work that is being done in each of the twenty-seven departments in which we are working if the time permitted.

As President, I have visited and addressed during the year just passing forty-six different associations, besides regular executive and committee meetings.

A. L. HAMILTON,  
President.

## COLORADO

Organized in 1910. There are sixty-two counties in the state. Ten have organized branches of the Congress. Twenty-five associations are in membership. Sixty parents' associations have been organized in schools. Sixteen child welfare organi-

zations are affiliated with the Congress. Fifteen were organized during 1911.

The Denver Circle has an organizing committee which works with the Education Committee in forming parent-teacher associations in each school and appoints a woman to mother these associations. We have about 2000 members. We have the co-operation of school superintendents and principals. Definite suggestions for study would help in our state.

The Colorado Congress inaugurated a playground campaign with Dr. Curtis as speaker. Girls' circles have been formed to teach girls home-making. Work to improve sanitary conditions in schools has been done. We held a three-day Child-Welfare Exhibit, showing moving pictures in the Denver auditorium. Thirty thousand men, women and children attended.

MRS. THEO. VAN WAGENEN.  
President.

#### CONNECTICUT

There are eight counties in the state. Six have branches of the Congress. There are thirty associations in membership. Six of these are parent-teacher associations. Eight have joined during 1911. We have a state organizer and have about 2500 members. We have co-operation of superintendents and principals in schools. The CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE has helped. We need more interested active workers. We have co-operated with probation officers and supplied teachers of Home Economies. Kindergartens are very general in connection with the school system.

MRS. L. MOTT,  
President.

#### DELAWARE

Organized 1910. There are three counties in the state. We have five associations in membership. There are about 300 members. The MAGAZINE has been helpful. We were active in securing the enactment of a Juvenile Court and Probation law.

MRS. GEORGE W. MARSHALL,  
President.

The Delaware Branch of the National Mothers' Congress accepted the invitation of the Dover Century Club to give the program March 27. The address of welcome was made by Mrs. Clayton W. Fisher, president of Dover Century Club. She then introduced our president, Mrs. George W. Marshall, who took charge of the meeting. Persons from different parent-teacher associations all over the state took part. The program consisted of short addresses by six different members, vocal, instrumental, cornet and violin music.

The decorations were especially beautiful and appropriate for the subject of the

afternoon, "Child Welfare." The words "Child Welfare" in evergreen were prominent in the grill work over the stage. One side of the stage represented a garden party, in which seven dolls—one being sixty-five years old—took part. Many trees dotted the garden here and there. The girl dolls were having a tea party, while a boy was industriously engaged with his tools. The program was both entertaining and instructive, and was heartily enjoyed.

The Dover Parent-Teacher Association had one of its most enthusiastic meetings Monday evening, April 8. The subjects discussed by lawyers, parents, ministers and members of the Board of Education were "Parents' Duty to the School," "The Relation of the Parent to the Teacher," and "Relation of the School to Child Welfare." Music was also a feature of the evening. The meeting was well attended and every one was deeply interested. Several new members were enrolled in the association.

MRS. ROBERT E. LEWIS,  
State Press Supt. of Delaware.

#### GEORGIA

Columbus, Georgia, has taken up the child-welfare work of the Mothers' Congress in a most practical manner.

At the Parent-Teachers Association of the Tenth Street School, on March 9, Mayor Chappell presided.

Judge Gilbert made a most interesting talk upon the moral training of the child and the responsibility which rests upon parents to begin this as early as possible. He referred to how easily children caught impressions and that they were likely to follow those earliest formed. If surrounded by unwholesome influences, the child is likely to be bad, but if the early training is what it should be the necessity of a juvenile court would be greatly lessened. He spoke of the necessity of wholesome surroundings in the home, and said that he was unwilling to place the entire responsibility upon the mother, he believed her influence to be greater than that of the father and next came the teacher.

Superintendent Daniel followed Judge Gilbert. He spoke of the good that can be done in the home by the early training of the child before it is sent to school. He also stressed the importance of concert of action between the parents and the teachers in inculcating not only proper moral, but educational training of its children. He asked earnestly for the co-operation of the parents and teachers. He also spoke of the bad effect of permitting children to roam at large upon the streets after school hours, stating that they often

imbibed more bad influence in this way than a conscientious teacher could counteract in several days of earnest endeavor.

Mayor Chappell emphasized the importance of hygiene and art in the schools. He advocated the placing of pictures of high ideals upon the walls of the school rooms as an elevating influence upon the children, and next he spoke of the hygiene ventilation and surroundings as a protection to their health. He stated that he did not desire that his remarks should be construed in the nature of criticism, but he really felt that an improvement could be made in the schools in this respect.

Hon. Henry R. Gietchius, president of the board of trustees, has shown a deep interest in the public schools, and is devoting much of his time and study to their efficiency and the education of the children of others. He made an interesting talk along the lines of throwing good influences around children. He contended that the parents could do more toward the moral training of the child than the teachers, as the teacher's time was limited to educational instruction.

Hon. G. Gunby Jordan was, perhaps, the most enthusiastic of those who talked upon this occasion. He has long been interested in the schools, having served as president of the board. He has recently, however, taken especial interest in industrial education, believing that no matter what may be a man's literary attainments, unless he is capable of earning a living or becoming a producer, he must become a burden upon society.

#### Atlanta

Under the auspices of the sanitation committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which is headed by Charles J. Hadden, the Atlanta branch of the National Mothers' Congress, will inaugurate a course of lectures on hygiene and sanitation in the Atlanta public schools. The ladies have secured a commission from the school authorities.

The lectures will be given by experts of Atlanta and other cities, and will be illustrated by stereopticon slides. Not only will the pupils derive the benefit of them, but all parents will be invited to attend.

MRS. J. R. LITTLE,  
President.

#### ILLINOIS

Illinois has one hundred and two counties. In nineteen of these the State Congress of Mothers has affiliated clubs or clubs in membership. Thirty-nine are parent-teacher associations, and twenty-five are affiliated clubs.

During the past year twenty-six new clubs have paid dues to the State Congress.

More have been organized but have not yet qualified.

Our Chairman of Extension Work, Mrs. George W. Eggers, has evolved a most effective scheme for increasing membership, of which she is to tell in person at this convention. She has had the most cordial support and co-operation of school superintendents, principals and all teachers. She has helped to provide the programs and spoken often herself for the various "Child Welfare Exhibits" that have been moved about from one school building to another in Chicago during the past fall and winter. She has always presented the thought of the value of parent-teacher organizations in her talks, as have other of the speakers in the more than 260 talks given throughout our state under the auspices of this committee.

We have about 100 individual members—most of whom take the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE. We have a special chairman for the MAGAZINE, and she has sent in over 100 subscriptions during the year.

I believe the MAGAZINE has helped in the spread of Congress intelligence—as many inquiries have come the past year from new people and places.

We have a chairman on our State Board for all committees corresponding to the Departments in the National Congress, except that of Marriage Sanctity. We have not succeeded in finding the right woman for that place since that committee was formed.

Our chairman of Literature, Mrs. O. T. Bright, issued a leaflet early in the year, reciting the value to the clubs of the loan papers, suggestive programs and study outlines. There never has been a year when so much use has been made of all literature and loan papers at her command. Indeed, she has not always been able—with the other demands the Congress makes upon her time—to keep up with the requests in her daily mail.

We feel the greatest aid to the individual home that the Congress can give is to keep strictly to the "aims and purposes" of our organization, particularly in training parents to give more help and attention to the child's moral education during the period just preceding and along through the years of adolescence.

For the school-co-operation with the teacher by the parents, more interest in the course of study, and in the ends the teachers are striving for with their children.

For the state—if all "child welfare" organizations could be co-ordinated and harmonized to work together without overlapping, the cause of childhood might be advanced more rapidly.

Three very important bills became laws through our legislature in 1911—the Mothers' Pension law; the law limiting the

laboring day of women to ten hours; and the law prohibiting boys under sixteen and all women and girls from working in mines.

The Mothers' Pension law is the most far-reaching of these. The Judge of the Juvenile Court of Cook County has appointed a citizens' board to co-operate with the court in a just enforcement of the law. The Illinois Congress has a member on this board.

A joint committee of Women's Clubs in Chicago has taken up the work of vocational training of girls between fourteen and sixteen. The Congress has a member on this committee, and also on the joint committee on the disposal of "city waste."

The Mothers' Pension law is operative in Peoria County, DeKalb and Winnebago, beside Cook, and no doubt will be soon in others.

Our Chairman of Child Hygiene, Dr. Wynnekoop, is a member of the National Society for the Prevention of Infant Mortality, and with other learned and eminent physicians is working on the problem of reducing the death rate of infants.

Indeed, we are fortunate in many of our chairmen—that of "Kindergartens" is held by Mrs. Mary B. Page, a practical teacher of kindergarten teachers, at the head of the Gertrude Home, Chicago, president of the Kindergarten Club of Chicago, and for many years a lecturer and teacher at Chautauqua. She has done much to hasten the day of free kindergartens in all the towns of Illinois, which is her high ideal for the state.

Our chairman for the Juvenile Court and probation work is a paid officer in the City of Rockford, and is a sympathetic as well as practical worker.

The efficient State Chairman of Magazine Committee, Mrs. William J. Benson, has been very active in securing subscribers, for the MAGAZINE. Since her appointment last October, Mrs. Benson has secured one hundred and sixty subscribers, and has paid for twenty-eight *herself*, as personal gifts. Now let us hear from other states as to their activities for the MAGAZINE.

The value of playgrounds about school buildings has been emphasized in many addresses given to parents' clubs, as well as by the pictures and charts shown at the exhibits.

The most important event in our year's work was the *third* meeting of the parent-teacher, section of our State Teachers' Association, held at Springfield during holiday week. The attendance was the largest in the three years, about equally divided between parents and teachers. The addresses given for the Congress were valuable and the discussion following was earnest and showed increasing interest in

our ideals. Preceding the meeting the ladies of Springfield had arranged a luncheon which was attended by 200 of the teachers and parents. Mrs. Stuart Brown, vice-president of the State Congress, acted as toast-mistress, and responses were made by Superintendent Blair, Dr. Lord, of the Charleston Normal School, and other prominent educators of the state.

At a business meeting of the general assembly of teachers a resolution, recommending the formation of parents' clubs about the schools, was passed and heartily endorsed.

We have held two all-day conferences during the year, one at Oak Park and the other at Streator, and another is planned for April at Freeport.

Members of our board have spoken at various local Farmers' institutes, and we were represented on the program of the general state meeting of the Farmers' Institute.

Two of our board also attended the national meeting of the "Civic Centre" movement held at Madison University in Wisconsin.

All the foregoing will show that the Illinois Congress is awake to the opportunity and alert in endeavor to spread the interest of child welfare throughout the state.

IDA B. GILLSON,  
Wilmette, Ill.  
President.

The thirteenth annual Child Welfare convention of the Illinois Congress of Mothers will be held in Chicago on May 8, 9, and 10, 1912, with the Hotel Sherman as headquarters. This is the first Chicago meeting in some years, and everything points to a large and successful gathering. The hotel management and the Association of Commerce have lent valuable aid to the local members of the Congress in preparing a program both pleasurable and beneficial.

A preliminary session will be held Wednesday morning: following this will be an afternoon for recreation, for which complimentary luncheon, automobile trips, sight-seeing tours, shopping and theatre parties have been planned. Wednesday evening the program will be formally opened by addresses of welcome from the Governor, the Mayor, the City Superintendent of Schools, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Chicago Association of Commerce.

Responses will be made by Mrs. L. K. Gillson, President of the Illinois Congress of Mothers. The lecturer of the evening is Dr. E. J. Ward, of the University of Wisconsin, who will speak on "What is Everybody's Business: the Social Center." The lecture will be illustrated with stereoptican. Reports of delegates and chair-

men of committees. Thursday and Friday addresses as follows: Wednesday A. M., Judge C. N. Goodnow, on "The Court of Domestic Relations" (a newly established institution in Chicago, which is highly valued.) Thursday P. M., Dr. Wm. B. Owen, President Chicago Teachers' College, on "Education and Sex Education," and Friday A. M., "Personality and Performance," by Dean L. C. Monin, of Armour Institute.

Perhaps the most delightful feature of the entire convention will be the Thursday evening banquet, at which a group of Chicago's most brilliant speakers will give brief addresses. Mrs. C. W. Blodgett will be toastmistress. Solos will be sung by Mrs. Helen Bright Bengel, and the following will respond to toasts: Dr. John Dodson, Dr. Emil G. Hirsch, Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Mrs. U. S. Grant, Dr. Nathaniel Butler and Dr. L. C. Lord.

The Art Institute of Chicago has extended the courtesy of complimentary admission by badge to members and delegates during the entire time of the convention.

All meetings are to be held in the Louis XVI Room of the Hotel Sherman, City Hall Square. Visitors from other State Branches of the National Congress of Mothers are invited and will be made most welcome.

#### INDIANA

Mrs. Charles Carroll Brown, President of Federation of Parent-Teachers' Associations of Indianapolis, arranged a large and representative meeting of Indianapolis citizens on March 28, to hear of the work of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Associations. Mrs. Frederic Schoff and Mrs. Orville T. Bright, President and Vice-President of the Congress, were the speakers. Never has the work of the Congress received more hearty approval than was given by the citizens of Indianapolis.

It was unanimously voted that a branch of the Congress should be organized in Indiana, and a committee was appointed to make necessary arrangements. Mrs. Bright told of the great interest in many towns of Indiana and numerous requests that a state branch be organized. The only question was in what city the first meeting should be held.

The plan is to hold the meeting in May, time and place to be decided by the committee, of which Mrs. Charles Carroll Brown is chairman.

#### IOWA

A few words of greeting from Iowa. Mrs. Brenton Governor's delegate. Our Governor, B. F. Carroll, our State Superin-

tendent, our County Superintendent, prominent men and educators throughout our entire state believe that the spirit of true motherhood is the foundation of all reform. They believe no other organization can do so much for the betterment of the conditions of child life as can the Congress of Mothers.

"The work of our Congress of Mothers has been an inspiration to all other educational forces." The Home is the bulwark of civilization. Our Homes are what we make them. It is a question of what we admire, of what we admit, what we keep out that tends to make us better or worse.

Dr. Margaret Clark, a prominent and much loved woman of Iowa, is in Berlin at present studying along the line of Eugenics, and our Congress of Mothers will have the benefit of Dr. Clark's research. Dr. Clark was the examining physician at our Baby Contest last year, held during our State Fair. We are at present planning a state wide Child-Welfare Campaign. We expect a building to be provided. Why not, when money is provided for buildings for the best horses, best cattle, best machinery, best farm products that Iowa may produce, why not have a building for the best children, where the mothers may come, may learn the best methods of feeding, clothing and caring for their children?

The power of the cradle is greater than the power of the throne. No work in the world pays like mother's work.

While Iowa is poorly represented to-day at your National Congress, there are earnest women working, planning to develop wiser, better trained methods. To carry the mother love and mother through into all that concerns and touches childhood in the home, school, church, and state, they intend to keep working and planning. That Iowa may be able to point with pride to her sons and daughters, for motherhood is a partnership with God. What love, what wisdom should belong to her who helps God fashion an immortal soul.

#### MASSACHUSETTS

Organized 1910. There are fourteen counties in the state. Ten have organized branches of the Congress. Fifty-four associations are members. There are thirty-nine parent-teacher associations and eleven mother circles. Four affiliated organizations. Five joined during 1911. Our organizer is in touch with every superintendent in the state; also, with every association in membership, and is now arranging a trip through the state. There are over 3500 members in Massachusetts. The educational material provided by the National Congress has been generally used and the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE has

helped. The greatest need of the state is money to continue organization. Much has been done in establishing milk stations. Work has been done in getting playgrounds.

The legislative chairman has presented a bill to the legislature asking a pension for widowed mothers with minor dependent children, which we have reason to believe will be passed. The last annual convention was held in Lynn in February. Mrs. Walter Merryman was compelled by other duties to resign as president, and Mrs. Milton P. Higgins, of Worcester, Mass., was unanimously elected president.

*Resolutions at Convention of Mothers' Congress at Lynn, February 15, 16 and 17, 1912.*

The Massachusetts Congress of Mothers urges parents to form associations for child study, to promote child-welfare in connection with the schools and churches which their children attend, and especially in connection with the nation-wide movement for child-welfare which is being started by the National Congress of Mothers.

WHEREAS, The movements for freer play, for wise probation, for aid to the widowed mothers of minor children, for sanitary care of school buildings, for the control and segregation of the feeble-minded, and the training of defective and delinquent children are all the direct outcome of the world-wide interest in child-welfare which has characterized this century:

Therefore, we wish to emphasize our interest and co-operation in the following:

All laws or movements for the furtherance of freedom;

The probation system, as widely administered;

The legislation now pending in Massachusetts asking for a commission to investigate the needs of widowed mothers with minor dependent children, with a view to their relief;

Any movements which tend to teach the proper care and feeding of infants, and the prevention of needless blindness;

The proper care and cleaning of school houses, and housing for children; emphasizing the fact that children must be taught to regard the property rights of others before they can be considered good tenants; the Boy Scout Movement, and well supervised Children's Clubs; the health and morals of children, and, in that connection, the advisability of the Curfew law, for the better protection of children on the streets at night.

The Widowed Mothers' Pension Bill is still one of our active departments. It has now passed the House of Representa-

tives, and is nearer discussion in the Senate. Your correspondent with Mrs. Robert Park, of Wollaston, who is really the leading spirit in this gloriously sane bill, was present while the bill was under discussion in the House. There was a recommendation from the Ways and Means Committee suggesting that one of the members of the commission to be appointed should be one of the members of the State Board of Charities. But the Representatives voted this down, and the original bill, which Mrs. Park presented, was passed. One of the most important clauses of the bill is removing all stigma of *charity* from these worthy widows.

Why should one of the State Board of Charities be on this committee any more than to have a State Charity member to regulate the soldiers or soldiers' widows pensions!

The Mothers' Club of Swampscott, Mass., consisting of 150 members has joined the Massachusetts Branch of Mothers' Congress. It has recently held a concert in aid of the scholarship fund at the High School.

Greenfield Mothers' Club donated \$55 to the High School Athletic Association. They have, also, sent a ten-year-old crippled boy to the Boston Children's Hospital.

Bradford, Mass., Parent-Teacher Association of Coggeswell School have elected the following officers: President, Mrs. J. W. Barr; Secretary, Mrs. G. F. Lombard; Treasurer, Mrs. J. H. Heckman.

Haverhill, Mass., recently held a very successful "Children's Party." About 150 children were present. The boys and girls' orchestra of the Central Ninth Grade furnished music. A young magician proved very entertaining. Candy, cake, and ice-cream were on sale and a neat little sum was realized. Altogether, this first "Children's Party" was a big success. It was voted to make it an annual event.

Our state organizer, Mrs. Walter Leroy Smith, of Malden, Mass., is busy filling engagements to address parents and teachers in towns and cities, where parent-teacher associations are desired.

Since the Child-Welfare campaign has been extended to 1914, the officers of the State Board feel that Massachusetts can and will step to the front and enthusiastically do its part toward making this campaign a grand success.

The report of the Sixteenth Convention of Mothers' Congress, which was held at St. Louis, has been written by our delegate, Mrs. W. L. Smith, of Malden. A copy will be sent free to each association which so kindly helped send this delegate. Any one wishing a report may obtain one for twenty-five cents. Address Mrs. W. L. Smith, 18 Everett St., Mass.

Massachusetts is justly proud to have the National Congress of Mothers accept their invitation to meet in Boston in May, 1913.

The State Congress of Mothers has accepted Greenfield's invitation to meet with them. Wouldn't it be wiser to have the State Convention held in early October? It is a beautiful season of the year in and around Greenfield at this time; a better season for mothers to leave their homes, and, finally, there is time enough between October and May to do some excellent work in the state before the National Convention is held. Let us all think seriously about this, and then send your opinion to the State President, Mrs. Milton P. Higgins, 228 West Street, Worcester, Mass.

IVANETTA WARREN SMITH,  
MRS. EARL WILLIAM SMITH,  
Chairman of Press and Publicity.

### MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Congress of Mothers had three delegates at the National Convention—Mrs. Frank Davis, Miss Addie Davis, and Miss Mary Emily Connell, from Columbus.

Mrs. Eugene Crutcher, Vice-President of Tennessee Congress, and Miss Connell, organized a Parent-teacher association in Brookville April 6, with a membership of twenty-five. Mrs. S. P. Walker, President; Mrs. Johnson, Vice-President; Miss McMarries, Secretary; Mrs. Parks, Treasurer.

Mississippi is planning a State Congress on June 3 at Jackson.

The work in Columbus is growing. Parent-teacher association of I. I. and C. is trying to establish a public playground with a paid director.

Parent-teacher association of Banner School is working for an assembly hall. Home and School of Franklin Academy is working for medical inspection in public schools.

New officers of Home and School League are: Mrs. Jno. A. Lipsey, President; Mrs. W. S. Lindawood, Vice-President; Miss Mary M. Stokes, Secretary and Treasurer.

MISS MARY EMILY CONNELL,  
Chairman State Membership Committee.

The Mississippi Congress of Mothers stands for,

*First*—A united organized parent-hood for the uplift of the child.

*Second*—For more and better equipped school buildings and better salaries for school teachers.

*Third*—For an educated parenthood and a chair of motherhood in every college and high school.

*Fourth*—For the unity of home and school and a parent-teachers' association in every public school.

*Fifth*—For clean literature and a "white life for two."

*Sixth*—As a united motherhood for the Juvenile Court and the State Reformatory for the delinquent child.

The child welfare work of the Congress is gaining in Mississippi, but our state is a great mission field. We have 234,837 white school children and 244,300 colored school children. Very few of the counties are organized into parent-teacher associations and mothers' clubs. Our mothers are busy in the home and most of our teachers are not informed as to our Congress work. Mississippi has forty parent-teacher associations and fifteen mothers' clubs. We try to have a state convention every two years.

We need more than any one thing funds to put a state organizer in the field. We are putting domestic science in our public schools, improving our rural school houses and trying to get physical inspection of pupils in our city schools. We are working for better roads and, for the past year our energies have largely been focussed on a juvenile court system.

Mrs. R. B. Stapleton, State President; Miss Mary Emily Connell, Delegate, Chairman of State Membership Committee.

Hattiesburg, Miss., March 16, 1912.

### NEW JERSEY

In the State of New Jersey there are twenty-one counties, twelve of which have organized branches of the Congress. There are eighteen affiliated organizations, and twenty-two in membership, of the latter sixteen are parent-teacher associations.

Twelve clubs joined the Congress in 1911, and five thus far in 1912.

We have adopted no systematic method for increasing membership beyond asking each club to act as an extension committee in its own locality.

The state is small, and the New Jersey Congress has not the means to employ an organizer, but the growth in the past year has been very encouraging.

In organizing parent-teacher associations we have secured the consent and approval of superintendents and teachers, if not their active assistance, and we have found that co-operation has always followed.

New Jersey has departments corresponding to the National as follows: Press, Membership, Finance, Legislation, Child-labor, Literature, Education, Parent-Teacher Associations, Child Hygiene, Juvenile Court, Rural Child Welfare, Home Economics.

The most helpful feature of the MAGAZINE has been the Department of State News, and I believe some of our smaller

clubs have found the MAGAZINE helpful in forming their programs.

The laws relating to women and children in New Jersey in 1911 have been excellent, the educational system has been reorganized upon the commission basis; the child-labor laws both as to occupation and hours for children have been amended; the number of hours children under fifteen may be employed is limited to fifty-eight a week, and the hours are fixed from seven in the morning to seven in the evening, except Saturdays, when the time is extended two hours. The employing of children during school hours in mercantile establishments is prohibited. The attendance of children under sixteen years of age at places of amusement, unless accompanied by a parent or adult friend, is forbidden. The Messenger Service bill prohibiting the employment of minors as messengers during the night in cities of the first class, and of boys under eighteen, in any city, became a law.

The ten-hour per day labor law for women has just been passed in spite of bitter opposition.

The Congress has taken an active part in these reforms, endorsing the bills and working hard for their passage in close co-operation with the Federation of Clubs, the Consumers' League and the New Jersey Child-Labor Committee.

For the prevention of Infant Mortality the Congress has compiled, printed and widely distributed ten thousand leaflets on "The Care and Feeding of Infants and Young Children." These have been used by visiting nurse associations, organized charity, Health Departments, Playground Associations, and Mothers' Circles.

Meetings for the instruction of mothers have been held at playgrounds during the summer and will be continued this year.

Large educational meetings have been arranged and are being held this spring in six centers to arouse public interest in Infant Mortality and Social Hygiene. The best speakers have been secured for these meetings, and they will be followed up by active work along these lines.

The Juvenile Court Committee has made a careful study of conditions, securing and distributing an accurate report of the administration in every county.

The clubs are now working to secure hearing at private sessions for juvenile offenders and also detention rooms for their accommodation while awaiting trial.

Many clubs are interested in and working for playgrounds, and there is great activity throughout the state in the line of school improvement, sanitation, and hygiene, social centers and home and school co-operation (Trenton and Plainfield).

The Rural Child-Welfare Committee has founded home culture clubs for girls

in seven counties, organizing contests in cooking, sewing and mending in the rural schools. The movement meets with the prompt and hearty endorsement and co-operation of State and County Boards of Education and Agriculture; there is every prospect that four more counties will take it up this spring.

The work this year includes bread-making, cookies, and corn-bread; patching and darning; four classes of plain sewing and two classes of fancy sewing.

Respectfully submitted,  
MARGARET REEVE  
President.

#### NEW YORK

Organized in 1897. There are sixty counties in New York, and in only sixteen are there as yet organized branches of the Congress. There are forty-one associations in membership. Ten are parent's associations. The others are independent of the schools. Four new ones were organized during 1911. There are about two thousand members in all. There are thirteen standing chairmen of committees. Mrs. J. Carter Robie, of Bath, is state chairman of CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE Committee. The Congress has helped to get women probation officers and has visited children's institutions.

Much work has been done for playgrounds and in putting domestic science in schools and girls' clubs.

MRS. DELOS G. ELDREDGE,  
President.

#### OKLAHOMA

The decision and opinion of Judge Armstrong, handed down by the Criminal Court of Appeals, states that no child under sixteen can commit a crime. This is in advance of any other state. The age fixed in other states when a child may be responsible varies from seven to fourteen years.

The compulsory attendance law provides that whenever a child of a widowed mother is shown to contribute to the support of the mother the County Commissioners shall provide the payment of the money the child would have earned during the school term. Oklahoma has a large educational fund out of which to draw the money, so that the law can be carried out in every county of the state.

The powers of the State Commissioner of Charities have been extended so that she becomes the protector of the childhood of the state. Miss Barnard, the Commissioner, has appeared in 30,000 cases on behalf of minor orphan children since July, 1911. About \$78,000 have been restored to their rightful owners and 115,000 acres of land.

H. L. WRIGHT, M. D.

## OREGON

Oregon has thirty-four counties. Seven have organized branches of the Congress. Twenty-seven associations are in membership, all of them being parent-teacher associations. We have worked systematically to increase the membership. The city, county and state superintendents are in sympathy with the movement. We have used the educational material furnished by the Congress and the CHILD-WELFARE MAGAZINE has helped. We would like Child Study Outlines in the MAGAZINE and good leaders for the circles—the need of field workers in the state. The Child Hygiene Committee has interested the State Board of Health to prepare leaflets on the care of the baby, for free distribution. The Oregon Congress has supplied funds to fit up a gymnasium at the Detention Home in Portland. The only Juvenile Court is in Portland. The Congress has promoted the sentiment to have playgrounds in connection with school, and boy's road patrols.

The Education Committee will present a bill to the next legislature requiring the establishment of free kindergartens. The Congress has secured sanitary drinking fountains and improved lavatories in the schools. At the request of the Congress the Mayor appointed a Sane Fourth Commission of ten men and women. All fireworks were forbidden by city ordinance. Picnics were given in five parks. Music was furnished and prizes were given by the city for winners in games. The Oregon Congress raised funds and held the first Child-Welfare Conference and Exhibit last November—the first one west of the Rockies. Commendatory reports are still heard from all parts of the city and state concerning the exhibit. It is estimated that the attendance averaged twenty-five hundred daily. Perhaps the greatest attractions were the pure milk section and nurses section in care of infants, and domestic science department of public schools.

Mrs. Robert H. Tate, President, has sent out the following notice:

*Summer Conferences.*

A conference of the Oregon Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teachers Association will be held at the University of Oregon, Eugene, July 2 and 3, Tuesday and Wednesday, under the auspices of the University Summer School.

The following are some of the topics to be discussed: Hygiene, School Ventilation and the Open-Air School, Medical Inspection of School Children, Play and Playgrounds and the Supervision of Commercialized Recreation—as Dance Halls

and Moving Picture Theatres, the School as a Social Center, Reorganization of Common School Work, and Intensive Training of Children.

It is expected that distinguished workers and lecturers from various sections of Oregon and from other states will participate in the conferences on these vital topics. Mrs. Robert H. Tate, of Portland, President of the Oregon Congress of Mothers, has been asked to preside over the convention. Dr. Adolph A. Berle, of Boston, will be present during the convention, and will deliver a lecture each day on the intensive training of children.

The attempt will be made to co-ordinate this conference with the Mothers' Congress, both as to time and as to topics, so that all who come to attend either series of conferences may readily and most profitably attend both series.

JOSEPH SCHAFER,  
Director University Summer School.

## PENNSYLVANIA

Organized in 1899. There are sixty-seven counties in the state. We have about eighty associations in membership. About fifty are parent-teacher associations. Thirty-four were organized during 1911. The MAGAZINE has helped in the work. We have an active legislative committee which follows all bills concerning children and which has introduced many which are now laws.

We have employed a field secretary the entire year, who is organizing circles throughout Pennsylvania.

Progress is reported along the lines of work of the various departments as outlined by the National Congress. Special attention is directed to the organization of parent-teacher associations.

Through the continued service of Miss Cynthia P. Dozier, our Field Secretary, the Congress Message is being spread through sixty-seven counties in Pennsylvania, resulting in the organization of many new associations, a number of which have joined the Congress.

There is a growing interest in the Congress work, and we firmly believe that the seed being sown will in the near future bring forth valuable fruit. The importance of the Congress as a state organization is receiving constant recognition.

We note with gratification the proposition, received from Dr. A. Duncan Yocom, of the University of Pennsylvania, who, in the spring of 1911, asked the co-operation of the Congress in bringing about a wider interest in higher professional training on the part of the whole teaching body of the state, and suggested that the Congress offer scholarships in the summer school of the University of Pennsylvania to the teachers throughout the

state. After due consideration the Board passed a motion to accept this proposition. A limited number of scholarships was, therefore, offered to the teachers in membership with the Congress. The courses to be limited to Psychology or Pedogogy, as subjects best calculated to promote the work of the Congress in the school.

As a further appreciation of this action of the Congress, the University of Pennsylvania granted an additional scholarship to each student carrying the Mothers' Congress scholarship. This opportunity was so highly appreciated by our teachers that the Congress has doubled the number of scholarships offered for next summer.

The action of the Executive Board to hold a State Council twice a year is proving most helpful in unifying the work and bringing about that co-operation with our State Circles so greatly desired. The circular letter which is issued monthly by our Executive Board to each circle in membership is another bond of unity and fills a long felt need in cementing the interest in the state work.

The Child-Welfare Campaign, as proposed and outlined by Mrs. David O. Mears, first Vice-President of the National, is claiming our careful attention, not only in the Congress Circles, but it is also being taken up in some of the churches, with the hope of establishing the movement as an annual campaign.

Pennsylvania State Congress of Mothers is arranging for a Child-Welfare Conference to be held in Harrisburg at the time the next legislature meets, with the object of interesting and informing our legislators on Child-Welfare needs.

The Baby Saving work is accomplishing much for the mothers and babies by educating the mothers in the proper care of their babies as to food, clothing, sewing and renovating worn garments. Valuable assistance is rendered in this work by the Congress employment of a trained nurse, who, with a physician, visited each mother in her home during the three summer months, examined the baby and advised her as to need of her child. In one ward thus visited in Philadelphia the infant mortality was more than fifty per cent. less than in the wards in the city where the special nurses were not employed.

It is the desire of the Congress to continue this oversight of the mothers by organizing Mothers' Circles in every ward in Philadelphia, where fathers, too, may be interested in domestic economy, and in every way share the burden of the mother in the care of the child, thus cementing the happiness of the home life.

One prosperous Mothers' Circle has resolved itself into a sewing class, meeting regularly, the women make aprons while the President reads from instructive Con-

gress books to them. These aprons are sold and the money received is contributed to the Congress. One scholarship in the summer school is thus provided for.

The several departments of the Pennsylvania Congress are organized under able chairmen. We hope for wonderful results in the coming year.

SARAH K. JOHNSON,  
President.

#### RHODE ISLAND

##### *Fourth Child Welfare Conference, Rhode Island Branch National Congress of Mothers.*

Progress, unabated interest and practical results already in evidence, was the showing made at the fourth annual meeting of the Rhode Island Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association, held in Providence.

The President, Mrs. James A. Kinghorn, in opening the meeting, extended a cordial welcome to all present and spoke of the steadily increasing interest in the great educational work for which the Congress stands and its recognition as a prominent factor in the state-wide, country-wide and world-wide movement for the best welfare of the child. In proof of this Mrs. Kinghorn said:

"As your President and representative I have frequent and constant appeals for advice and help in the solution of the many problems with which the individual worker and the philanthropic organizations are daily confronted."

Tribute was paid to the faithful and efficient service rendered by the different committees, whose chairman would shortly present their reports, making the work speak for itself.

"The outlook for the future promises much, but the greatest need is for workers," she said, "thoughtful, sane, sympathetic women who will give of their time and energy to carrying out the plans of the Congress."

After expressing earnest thanks to all officers and co-workers for efficient service in the past, Mrs. Kinghorn glanced at some phases of the limitless possibilities for usefulness along lines of work for which the Congress stands, and expressed a desire to see the scope of work extended. The value of the Juvenile Court work was emphasized, but the mothers' clubs were credited with representing the vital spirit of the organization in that they afford a common ground between the home and the school, a common interest between the mother and the teacher and the refining influence which elevates the standards of both.

The program included reports of the last annual meeting, and a résumé of the year's work by the secretary, Mrs. Dwight K. Bartlett.

Mrs. Daniel F. Hayden, state organizer, told of her pleasure in "mothering" eight new clubs, each one of which she hoped would prove a strong link in the rapidly lengthening chain of the congress, a chain connecting with bands of unity the home and school.

The several standing committees were represented by their chairmen, and for the individual clubs brief reports were presented by their respective directors.

A letter from Mr. M. Davitt Carroll, chairman of the Joint Committee of Members of the Rhode Island State Congress of Mothers, and Providence teachers, told of one meeting held to consider the movement in favor of using school buildings as community centers, and to appoint a sub-committee whose work should be the planning for a beginning of such work in the near future. Members of this sub-committee are Mrs. Henry Fletcher, Mrs. Amasa M. Eaton, Mrs. Louis L. Angell, from the Congress; Miss Mary Brennan and M. David Carroll, representing the teachers.

Touching upon the question of the proposed use of school buildings, mention was made of the effort along this line elsewhere, and stress laid upon the untold possibilities for uplift involved. Reference was made to previous attempts made to inaugurate the work in Providence and the revival of interest during the year past, which resulted in a state appropriation of \$2000.

The report especially emphasized the feeling of the committee, and particularly the teachers, that a small beginning should be made at once, hoping that once inaugurated there would be no lack of support and encouragement. It was announced as a practical beginning that, on April 17, an entertainment would be held at Canace street grammar school. Mr. William S. Steere, of the Webster Avenue Grammar School, has promised to get in touch with the primary schools in his district with a view to similar work in that section.

In conclusion, it was reported that, in response to a suggestion made by Mr. Carroll, Mr. Condon had appointed a committee of the grammar masters to take up the use of their buildings as community centers. Members of this committee are Lewis H. Meader, Frank A. Spratt, Herrick P. Young, Victor Frazee and Mr. Davitt Carroll.

The Juvenile Court Committee, Miss Edith Angell, chairman, told of studying conditions at the Children's Court, preparatory to practical work, and paid tribute to help rendered by the officers, with the result that investigations will be made by the committee and the long-delayed practical work be begun in earnest, although but few cases will be undertaken this year.

Mrs. Alfred L. Lustig told what the home economics committee was doing toward seeing to it that school children were provided with proper luncheons, on the ground that only a well-nourished child could do good school work. Plans for a cooking school were also outlined and an appeal made for help.

Mrs. P. Francis Walker's report for the sewing committee showed admirable work. Classes in sewing have been organized, and by some clubs a large number of garments have been completed.

Mrs. Henry Fletcher gave an account of practical service rendered in securing speakers for the different mothers' clubs.

Mrs. Carl Barus, representing the child labor committee, told of the conference of committees held in the interest of child welfare, at which more than thirty organizations were represented. She also told of the effort being made to secure uniform laws regarding child labor, emphasizing the fact that neglect to make the laws in this state conform to those in the states adjoining was likely to result in sending to Rhode Island undesirable immigrants. The evils of night work by newsboys and messenger boys were also cited to prove the need of reform along that line.

Mrs. Donald Churchill, chairman of the child hygiene committee, interested all with her account of the meetings held during the year, the effort made along certain lines and the final decision to concentrate effort upon providing a place where mothers could be taught how to care for their little ones, to keep them well.

As a practical result of the work of this committee and the co-operation of public school officials, in allowing the use of a room at the Domestic Science School, 356 Willard Avenue, a free consultation room was opened the 16th of the present month, and it is proposed to hold free clinics each Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. A physician and a trained nurse will always be in attendance, and much is hoped for in the way of preventive work.

The following were elected officers for 1912-1913: President, Mrs. James A. Kinghorn; First Vice-President, Mrs. Ella M. Pierce; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Henry Fletcher; Third Vice-President, Mrs. Carl Barus; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Dwight K. Bartlett; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Jay Perkins; Treasurer, Miss Frances R. Kern; State Organizer, Mrs. Daniel F. Hayden.

After the presentation of reports, Mrs. Kinghorn introduced Dr. F. N. Seerley, of Springfield, who gave what he called "A Study of Child Life from the Mothers' Standpoint," in which he emphasized the mother's responsibility, even during the pre-natal period. Dividing then the life of the boy into three epochs, he showed by clever illustrations, how much depends

upon keeping pure the early years. "We are doing much to secure pure food for the body," he said, "but we are too lax in regard to protecting from impure influence outside the home." Dr. Seerley spoke very earnestly of the years when a mother's influence is dominant, and, so urging upon his hearers the need of providing the proper environment for children during the years when—incessant questioners, hungry for information—they need careful instruction—the material with which to build the character a good mother desires for her child.

#### TENNESSEE

The first annual meeting of the Tennessee branch of National Congress of Mothers was held in Memphis, February 22 to 24.

Encouraging progress has been made by all the circles formed. A large number of the school districts in and near Memphis have been heard from as desirous of organizing parent-teacher clubs.

Judge Lindsay, who is one of the officers of the National Congress, was in Memphis during the Congress and lent to it added interest.

Prof. A. S. Mynders, president of the new West Tennessee Normal School, who until recently had been superintendent of schools of Knoxville, was on the program. Other interesting speakers of more than local fame participated.

The mornings were taken up with reading of reports, afternoons with addresses. Several functions of a social character were arranged by a large number of women from all over the state.

The Kosmos Club of Chattanooga has sent the following letter: "The mothers of the country are demanding of every educational agency that it not only educate mentally, but that it give a pure and sane outlook on life. The picture show is one of the strongest influences on child life. It makes a strong impression, for it reaches the mind through its strongest sense, the eye, and is becoming a most generally patronized amusement. Because it is so popular and so powerful, we are demanding a concession of the manufacturers of the films.

"The good resulting from the censorship of these pictures is apparent. As there are many books perfectly legitimate for the grown up that should not fall into the hands of the immature mind, so there are pictures all right for the matured mind but altogether unfit for the child. We are asking that one or more days in each week be regarded as Red Letter day when the manufacturer or his censorship select pictures for the youth of the country with the same care we would use in choosing their books.

"We are not asking merely children's pictures, but pictures that will not bias the young mind. Let them attract, let them entertain, but let them help the young people to become the right sort of men and women."

#### TEXAS

There are 240 counties in Texas. Thirty-six have organized branches of the Congress. There are 275 associations in membership. School superintendents and principals have co-operated. We would like greater interest of mothers and teachers in child welfare. The legislature has by our initiative enacted a child-labor law, medical inspection in public schools and abolition of the public drinking cup. We have provided district nurses in some cities, have equipped public playgrounds, organized parent-teacher associations in the country and city, and done much in preparation for the expected meeting of the National Congress in Dallas.

The service to childhood given by the Texas branch of the Congress of Mothers is appreciated by those studying the needs of the state.

Lee Clark, representing the Texas Education Conference, says: "The Texas Congress by its devotion to the children of the state and an unselfish desire for their welfare has rendered a great service and is destined to do even a greater work. We realize that you are coming in vital touch with the very heart power of our people, and bringing about an understanding between parent and teacher that is resulting in a co-operation between home and school that is doing much toward the efficiency of our public schools. The Conference of Education in Texas desires to co-operate in every way possible with your organization and feels the need of your counsel and aid."

From the University of Texas Mr. A. Caswell Ellis writes: "As a citizen of Texas I want to thank you and the Congress for the great good that you have done in originating the movements for a Child Welfare Conference and for the Child Welfare Exhibit. Both of these movements will without doubt develop tremendously in the future and be a great blessing to the childhood of our state."

MRS. J. N. PORTER,  
President.

#### *Urge Children's Hour.*

To the mothers of the State, the Texas Congress of Mothers is sending out the following suggestions, asking that at least one hour be given in the busy twenty-four for the pleasure and benefit of the individual child:

While we talk to the housemother about giving an hour every morning to

ordering and righting the details of comfort in her household, we must put in a claim on behalf of the children for an hour in the evening. Of course, every mother cries out that she gives her life to her children; they are on her mind night and day—she thinks, plans, works for them constantly. All very probably true, and yet the children may scarcely know their mother, or feel that they individually have any share in her. The more a woman actually works for her children, cooks, sews or perhaps earns money for them, the less likely is she to sit down with her hands folded to talk to them, to listen to their little secrets, and stories about the teacher and the school-boys, to get into the very heart of their fancies and foolish plans and hopes. We insist upon the hour which shall be absolutely the children's, no matter what work or social claim must be put aside for it. Let any woman quietly reckon over the minutes of the day when she is her children's companion—not nurse, nor seamstress, nor instructor—and she will be startled into confessing that our plan is more needed than she thought. By the time their school hours and the necessary household occupations, and the time for meals, visits and visitors are subtracted there is usually not a moment when the little creatures can feel that their mother is altogether their own. Especially is this true in city life, where nurses and governesses come in between them, and can not well be put aside. Even in the evening, at the hour when almost every mother loves to hang over her baby and sing it to sleep, Tom and Jenny, grown out of babyhood, are sent to their lessons, and presently creep sleepily to bed, left to think their own thoughts as they go. Now, suppose every mother who reads this should, for a month or two, as a trial, set apart that lonesome evening hour as the children's. What if she does give up the opera or agreeable guests in the parlor? There are higher duties required of her than the study of Offenbach or hospitality. Let her leave her sewing behind; don't let her dress be too fine for Nelly to maul and climb over, nor her thoughts busy with anything but the children's talk. Silly as that may be, they are the keenest of observers; they will know instantly whether it is only mamma's body that is with them while her mind is far away, or whether she herself is as much in earnest, as eager to talk and to listen, as she is with grown people and strangers.

Nor need she fill up the hour with hints on behavior or morals; put off reproofs until to-morrow; let them slaughter their tenses or tell of their school scrapes as they choose—for this little while she is their friend—comes nearer to them. We know of one house where a

poor seamstress puts by her machine every evening to play blindman's buff or marbles with her boys. "It will count for more than money," she says; and another, where two bearded young fellows at 9 o'clock eagerly clear away their Virgils and maps for "mother's talk," and think it the best hour of the whole day.

#### UTAH

The Utah Congress of Mothers has in Salt Lake a central circle which meets monthly for study and discussion of topics relating to the home. We have had no difficulty in securing the finest specialists in every line, to give lectures. Other small clubs are auxiliary to the Congress and the presidents of these groups are members of the State Board of the Congress. We endeavor to form other circles in connection with the public schools, with private schools and with Sunday schools. Some of our most efficient workers come from other states. There is some reason for our organization, in the fact that Congress material trained in other states can always be put to work and not be lost to the Congress. I wish that a system of transfer cards might be devised so that we could always welcome a Mothers' Congress worker when she comes to our state.

The most interesting part of our work has been the monthly deliberations of the State Board. To this board have been brought from all parts of the state reports of pitiable conditions among the children. The Utah Mothers' Congress has never contracted to be the referee in all cases of suffering and injustice, but the citizens seem to turn to us naturally as a body which should care for everything which is for the welfare of the child. We have kept in touch with the Juvenile Court, with the effect upon ourselves of great distress of mind on account of the knowledge of the number of children who are falling into criminal habits.

Among the cases reported to us were numerous instances of attempted pandering, particularly on the part of the manager of the stockade, the most infamous institutions of vice every founded in any city. The Juvenile Court finally succeeded in bringing suit against the manager, a woman whose operations backed by investments of hundreds of thousands of dollars was said to control the city governments of the two principal cities of Utah. One of the officers of the Juvenile Court, who was also the chairman of the Juvenile Court Committee of the Mothers' Congress, made an appeal to us to attend the trial of the manager of the stockade in order to see for ourselves the conditions of things in this underworld. Other clubs were also appealed to, and the re-

sult was that a number of the most influential women of Salt Lake were present at this criminal trial at every session. The experience was not pleasant, for many of us had never been present at a criminal trial before, but it was truly enlightening. When the fact was made plain of the power of this evil institution known as the stockade, the money and authority behind it could flaunt in the face of the community—the wonder was not that girls and boys succumbed to the influence, but that any remained uncorrupted. The guilt of the accused was established without a reasonable doubt, and the woman was sentenced to eighteen years of prison life at hard labor. But the lawyers for the defense sought to cast reflections upon the motives and acts of the women who attended the trial, indicting five of them to appear as witnesses, attempting to prove that there was collusion between the prosecuting attorney and the club women to influence the jury to secure this conviction of the accused.

The annoyance to the five club women was a chief thing intended, but I believe that the purpose to serve notice to the club women not to interfere in such matters has failed.

The sentence has not been carried out and we are told it will never be, because the woman threatens to reveal the names of those who hold stock in the stockade. But we do not feel that our effort was entirely lost, for although Bell London may not be sent to prison, the stockade, thus far, has not been re-opened, and the city authorities have been made to feel the force of public opinion. I believe that if the reputable part of society would unite in a public demonstration, denouncing such evils, not only stockades, but parlor houses and red-light districts, as well as low rooming houses, would be abolished.

One of our most notable occasions during the last year was a luncheon at the Y. M. C. A. for the discussion of single-handed house-keeping. The seats for the luncheon were all taken within a week after the announcement of the affair, and we could have almost filled the tables twice over. The discussion was under the leadership of the Domestic Science Teacher of the Agricultural College at Logan, and was practical and helpful. As the majority of the members of the Mothers' Congress in Salt Lake and elsewhere are without help in the home, the subject of single-handed house-keeping is of general interest.

The account in *McClure's Magazine* of the success of Dr. Montessori, in New Methods of Education, in Italy, aroused great interest among our members. By the generosity of five of our members we sent for the book and apparatus of the

Montessori method, and shall receive them as soon as they are issued. We are in correspondence with Miss Anna George, the chief exponent of the system in this country, endeavoring to secure a lecturer who will fully explain to us Madam Montessori's methods and theories of education. We have been writing to nearby states and towns to see if they would not like to share with us the transportation expenses and get the benefit of such a lecturer.

One of the best pieces of work which we have done during the year was the securing of a memorial to Miss Annie Chapman in the Salt Lake Public Library. Miss Chapman was a woman whose life was given unstintedly for public work in many directions, but especially in securing for Salt Lake a public library, where she held the position of First Librarian. The Mothers' Congress started a movement and secured by subscription \$300 which has been expended in securing a tablet which will soon be in place in the library. The tablet is a beautiful portrait in bronze, designed and executed by Mr. Mahonri Young, a Utah artist now located in New York.

#### VERMONT

There are fourteen counties of the state. Three have organized branches of the Congress since May, 1911. Eleven associations are in membership. Twelve parent's associations have been formed, and others are to be organized soon. Constant communication and personal work has been done to extend interest in the Congress. We have 450 members. We have the hearty support of school superintendents and principals. The MAGAZINE has helped in the work. We need more workers in different parts of the state. Several of the associations have done good work for playgrounds. We expect to organize a state branch of the National Congress of Mothers in May.

MRS. H. A. HARMAN.

#### WASHINGTON

*Annual Child-Welfare Conference, Washington Branch National Congress of Mothers, Tacoma, May 3 and 4.*

Tacoma has over a thousand members of the Congress, and they will give a cordial welcome to the members who will come from many parts of the state.

Many new circles have been organized since the last convention, and all through the state the interest is increasing.

The program of State Congress is given below:

Prof. H. C. Sampson, of Spokane, Wash.—What Shall We Do With Our Boys?

Mrs. Dabney, of Seattle.—Domestic Science.

Mrs. Dixon, State Travelling Librarian—The Wider Use of Libraries.

Mrs. C. E. Bogardus, Seattle—Legislation for Child Welfare.

Mrs. Hoag Puyallut—Value of Parents and Teachers' Acquaintance. The Power for Good or Evil of Moving Pictures and Phonographs. Over fifty circles in membership.

Miss Kathie Pieczouka—Cello Solo.

Mrs. Chandler Sloan will sing.

Organized a parents' association in Spokane.

*Foreword in Report of Cheney Normal School.*

Of the numerous efforts of man, and of hundreds of organizations in this decade, for the promotion of the welfare of one's fellows, none is more significant than the Mothers' Congress with its large department of parent-teacher organizations. The meeting together of parents and teachers for discussing the child's welfare has been a common practice for years, both in this country and abroad, but the trend of the new movement that has now swept this country from coast to coast is far broader than even the most enthusiastic devotees of the past decade anticipated. Education then meant school education, how to make the child pass his grade, how to make him keep the pace of his companions, how to get the three R's into his poor beduddled head, or how to make him docile and obedient. It has taken a long time for school men and parents to realize that education is not primarily to fit boys and girls for high school or college and eventually for the teaching profession. Education from the very earliest time was an effort to teach the youth how to maintain his existence, or, possibly, how to better his existence. Or, if one looks deeper, he finds man from the most primitive time trying to prepare himself and his offspring to better realize the divine purpose of the Creator—the perpetuation of the species and the perfection of that species. Therefore, as a logical conclusion from the foregoing, the primary function of education is the uplifting of ideals everywhere, especially in the home, where alone this ultimate divine purpose can be worked out.

Since modern conditions have become so complex as to preclude the education of children in the home, and since the home has delegated to the school this most important of all tasks, is it not time that the home become an active partner in this educational company instead of employing proxies, or, worse still, never using its voice at all to control the disposition of its capital?

Mothers and fathers, are you going to leave your sons and daughters heaps of shining yellow metal, or an inheritance of capability, good judgment, clean morals, a community free from corruption and disease? Perhaps a parent-teacher movement will not bring parents and teachers into co-operation for these ends, but if it does not, there is something wrong with the teacher or parent or both. If you do nothing more than come to the meeting once a month or fortnight and discuss a subject worth while or listen to a good lecture on some topic on better living, or, perchance, if you are actually able to change conditions in your community, on the street, in the home or at school, you have made a start in the right direction, away from passive acquiescence, to active participation in everyday affairs that concern the welfare of your child.

The organization of a parent-teacher club at the State Normal School at Cheney three years ago has grown from a body of but a few interested persons to a membership of more than a hundred. Local clubs have been formed at Cheney, Spokane, Greenacres, Rockford, Rearden, and many other places that have not reported. Last year many of our teachers went away with the avowed purpose of organizing clubs. It is too early to have a report from these clubs now, but it is hoped that many of our teachers will organize clubs and find help in solving their local problems.

### WISCONSIN

Organized in 1910. There are seventy counties in the state. Three have organized branches of the Congress. Seven associations are members. We have used the educational material supplied by the National Congress and have found the MAGAZINE helpful.

MARY C. SULLIVAN,  
President.

### THE BLISS OF MAY

Would you see how May to May-men  
Bringing marvels new;  
Priests, behold!—behold it laymen,  
What his might can do!  
He is uncontrolled;  
I know not if magic is it;  
When his joys the world revisit,  
There is no one old.

Happy May, thy spell divideth  
All, but not in hate!  
Every tree in leafage hideth,  
Nor the moorlands wait,  
Colors fall in showers:  
"I am long, and thou art short,"  
Thus in fields they strive and sport,  
Clover, grass, and flowers.  
WALTHER VON DER VOGELWEID.

## Child-Welfare In Other Lands

THE Second International Congress on moral education will meet at The Hague, August 22-27 next. All civilized nations are now preparing to participate in this peaceable and amicable method of raising the standards of humanity. The first Congress was held in London in 1908. Twenty-one governments were represented there. Whatever diversity of belief there may be, all may unite on the essentials for the moral uplift of the race.

### BELGIUM.

Antwerp has just decided to have a juvenile court which will meet once a month. The need for more frequent meetings will soon be realized.

### PORUGAL.

The president of the republic has created a central school for children. It was opened last July and is for erring children. In one room of this house judges hear the cases of arrested children. It is, therefore, a real children's court without publicity or imposing appearance.

### ITALY

is asking for special courts for children without publicity and that no adult may be blamed legally or morally for offenses committed in childhood.

### SPAIN

There is a movement to improve the conditions of children in Spain. Great need for it exists. Thousands

of children are daily exploited by unworthy parents, others are left to the evils of the street and to prostitution. A day nursery for the children of washwomen is kept in Madrid.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

One thousand children each year are sent to Canada from the Barnardo homes in England; 78,000 of these children are now in Canada. The children are cared for until able to support themselves and are kept under friendly supervision even after that. The Barnardo homes point with pride to the fact that in the last six years not one abandoned child has been refused admission.

### CUBA.

The proportions of infant mortality in Cuba are heartrending—10,653 died during the past year, under one year; and from one to nine years 4,761, that is to say, 31.48 per cent. of the death-rate corresponds to children under one year, and 3,243 were born dead, which makes 13,896 lives lost in one million and a half in the Island of Cuba.

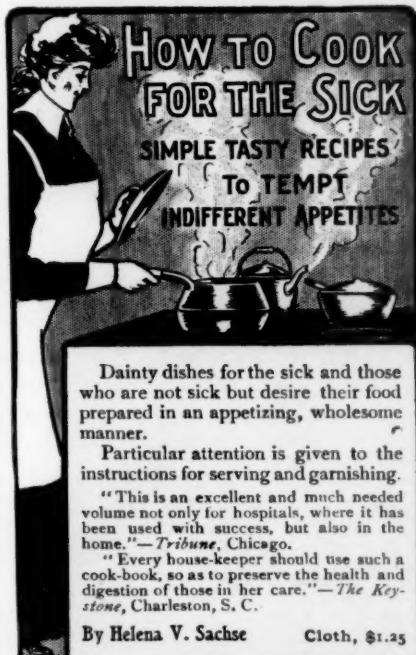
Dr. Frederico Rossi, Professor of Medicine in the University of Havana, Dr. Enrique Barnet and Dr. Octavio Ortiz Coffigny, specialist in infants' diseases, will act as medical councillors to the Cuban branch of the Mothers' Congress. The work of baby saving will be begun at once and in accordance with the special circumstances in Cuba.—*J. C. de Ortiz Coffigny.*

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